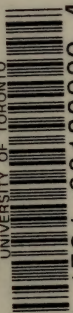


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THE HOUSE OF TECK

THE ROYAL HOUSES OF ÁRPÁD AND ABA

AND

THE HOUSE OF RHÉDEY



Photo.

W & D. Downey.

Her Majesty Queen Mary
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THE HOUSE OF TECK

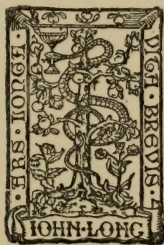
A ROMANCE OF A THOUSAND YEARS

By

Louis Felberman

AUTHOR OF "HUNGARY AND ITS PEOPLE," ETC.

WITH PHOTOGRAVURE PORTRAIT OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY
PUBLISHED BY HER MAJESTY'S GRACIOUS PERMISSION
118 OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS, TOGETHER WITH A
MAP AND THREE GENEALOGICAL TABLES



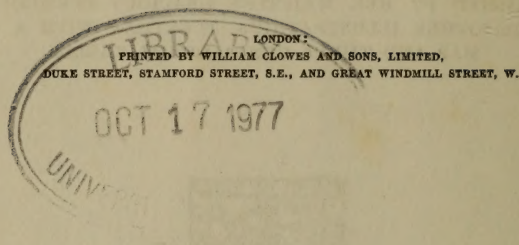
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Dedicated

MOST RESPECTFULLY BY GRACIOUS PERMISSION TO

HIS HIGHNESS

THE DUKE OF TECK, G.C.B., G.C.V.O.



HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V.
PUBLISHED BY GRACIOUS PERMISSION OF HIS MAJESTY
From a photograph by Messrs. W. and D. Downey

PREFACE

ON the occasion of the wedding of Their Majesties I had the honour of publishing a little volume dealing with the history of the Rhédey family, the maternal ancestors of His Highness the late Duke of Teck ; and by special permission I was privileged to dedicate it to His Highness.

The subject proved fascinating to me in so many ways that I was led to make further researches in the history of this illustrious family, who trace their descent from the royal House of Aba, and are closely connected with the dynasty of Árpád.

Access to the original Hungarian MS. of the genealogical history of the House of Rhédey, specially prepared for the Duke of Teck by Dr. Sándor, Paris, by order of His Excellency, Privy Councillor Count Samu Teleki, and to the archives connected with the Rhédey family, kindly placed at my disposal by different Hungarian towns, has enabled me to considerably increase the scope of my former work. I venture to hope that what I have written may commend itself to the public at the moment when the entire British Empire—nay, the whole civilised world—awaits with the most sympathetic interest Their Majesties' Coronation.

Though the main purpose of this volume is to deal with the Hungarian ancestors of Her Majesty, yet a short outline of the history of the House of

PREFACE

Württemberg, from which Her Majesty descends on the paternal side, will not be out of place, indeed, is indispensable to justify the title of the work.

I have also included a short account relating to the illustrious Houses of Báthory, Apaffy, Bethlen, Zrinyi, Rákóczy, Bánffy, Wesselényi, Teleki, and other great families of Hungary, who either descended from the same stock as the Rhédeys or were closely related to them.

I append a list of the authorities I have consulted, and it will be seen that I have taken as my guides the most approved ancient and modern Hungarian historians. I have also availed myself of a number of works of reference both in the English and other languages, which I herewith gratefully acknowledge.

In conclusion, I consider it my special duty to express my indebtedness to Mr. Charles Rimler, the Burgomaster of Nagy Várád, in sending me such an exhaustive account of Nagy Várád and the Rhédey family drawn from the archives of the County of Bihar. I regret that the space at my disposal does not permit me to publish this interesting collection in its entirety, but the information contained therein was of the utmost use to me in preparing this work. With a view of showing how sacredly the memory of the Rhédey family is preserved, I cannot do better than reproduce the translation of the letter of the Burgomaster to me on the subject.

LOUIS FELBERMAN

June 21

*Translation of Letter received by the Author from
the Burgomaster of Nagy Várád*

1059.

1911.

DEAR SIR,—

In reply to your letter of the 25th ult., addressed to me, asking me to send you copies of the archives of the County of Bihar in connection with the Rhédey family, as well as other relics that may be in possession of the County, I have the honour to inform you that, bearing in mind the noble object of the work, and also remembering with gratitude what the town of Nagy Várád owes to the Rhédey family, who have been its great benefactors, I have given the necessary orders that the material in question shall be sent to you in its most complete form. I send herewith also eighteen photographs of the Rhédey family relics, specially taken for your work, as well as a short account of the history of Nagy Várád and its close connection with the Rhédey family, which has been specially prepared for your work by the Chief Librarian of the County of Bihar.

Assuring you of my highest esteem, I have the honour to remain, with friendly greetings,

(Signed) CHARLES RIMLER
Burgomaster

LOUIS FELBERMAN, Esq.

AUTHORITIES

In preparation of this work I have consulted the following recognised Hungarian authorities on the history of Hungary :—

Anonymus Notarius, *Gesta Hung.*
Turóczi, *Historia Regum Hungaricorum.*
Codex Diplomaticus Hungariae (Fejér).
Aba Samu Király (King Samu Aba), by Kandra Kabos.
Aba Király (King Aba), by Prof. S. Márki.
St. Margit (St. Margaret of Scotland), by Dr. József Rézbányay.
Magyar Szentek (Saints of Hungary), by F. Toldy.
Dr. Horváth (Mihály).
Dr. Szalay (László).
Prof. Sebestyén (Gyula).
Prof. Márki (Sándor).
Prof. Marczali (Henry).
Prof. Szilágyi (Alexander).

For the various family histories and romances dealt with I have consulted the works of the following authors :—

Báthory (Gábor)—Baron Jósika.
Apaffy (Mihály)—Maurice Jókai.
Teleki Mihály—Maurice Jókai.
Thököli (Imre)—Maurice Jókai.
Rhédey (Ferencz III.)—Maurice Jókai.
Rákóczy Ferencz II.—Prof. S. Márki.
Báthory (Erzsébet)—Ferencz Nádasdy.
(Második Rákóczy, Ferencz Élete)—Count Miklós Bethlen.
(Life of Ferencz Rákóczy II.).
Bethlen (Katalin)—Countess K. Bethlen.

AUTHORITIES

A Tornaj nemzetségbeli Bánffy család Története (The Origin of the Bánffy Family), by Varga.

Vaik Stephen and Gisela, by Dr. R. Rotter.

Amongst the Hungarian works of reference, I am specially indebted to the information obtained in the Pallas Lexicon, and also to the following English Works :—

The Historian's History of the World. Edited by Henry Smith Williams, LL.D. Published by the "Times."

The Encyclopædia Britannica.

Chambers' Encyclopædia.

Lives of the Saints, by the Rev. Alban Butler.

Life of St. Elizabeth, by Montalembert (Count). Translated by Mary Hackett.

For Würtemberg I have consulted :—

Belschner (C.), Geschichte von Würtemberg.

Moser Geschichte von Würtemberg.



THEIR MAJESTIES' CHILDREN

PUBLISHED BY GRACIOUS PERMISSION OF THEIR MAJESTIES

Photo by W. and S. Downey

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THE LATE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF TECK AND FAMILY
TAKEN AT WHITE LODGE

ERRATA

Pages 11, 95, and Illustrations facing pp. 4, 6, 38, 80, also Table of Contents (Chapter V.), List of Illustrations, pp. 291, 309 of Index, and in Genealogical Table II, *for* "Prince" *read* "Duke" Alexander of Württemberg.

Pages 13, 46, 101, names appearing either as "Jagellon" or "Jagiello" are generally spelled in English as "Jagello," though a number of Polish and other historians refer to the Dynasty as "Jagyello," "Jagiello," or "Jaghello," the name of its founder, prior to his conversion to Christianity, having been known as "Jagyl" or "Jaghyel."

Page 40, last line, *for* "Gresen" *read* "Gnesen."

Page 107, line 22, *for* "Francis Rákóczy II." *read* "Francis Rákóczy I."

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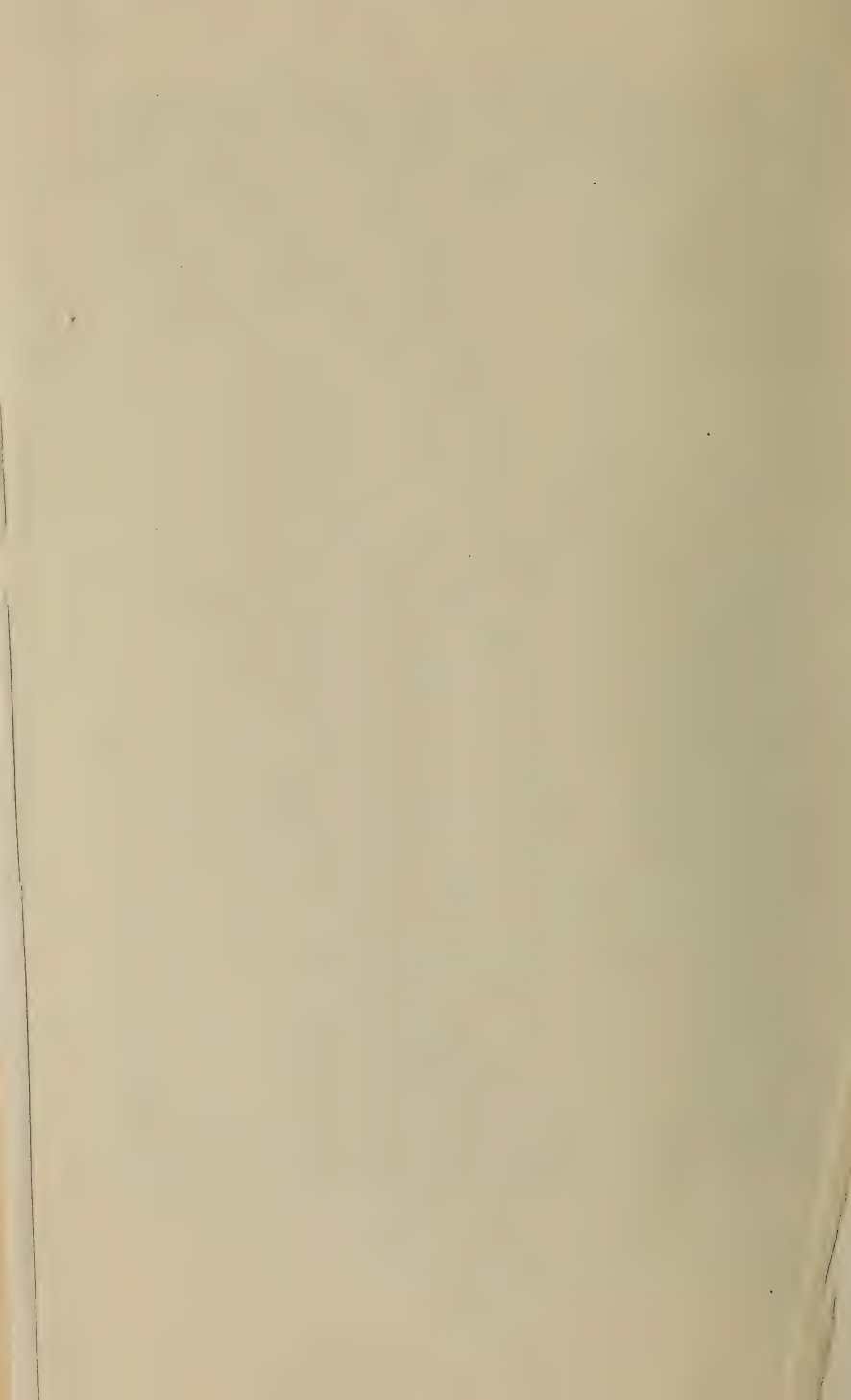
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Photo by W. and D. Downey



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VOCABULARY OF HUNGARIAN NAMES

As in many cases only the Hungarian Christian names are given, for the reason that the persons so described were specially identified in history with their Hungarian names, it might not be out of place to give here their English equivalent.

Andreas	=	Andrew.
Dénes	=	Dionysius.
Dezső	=	Desiderius.
Farkas	=	Wolf.
Ferencz	=	Francis.
Gábor	=	Gabriel.
György	=	George.
Ilona, Ilka	=	Helen, Nelly.
Imre	=	Emerick.
István	=	Stephen.
János	=	John.
Jósefa	=	Josephine.
József	=	Joseph.
Károly	=	Charles.
Kati, or Katinka	=	Kate.
Lajos	=	Louis.
László	=	Ladislaus.
Lukács	=	Lucas.
Mihály	=	Michael.
Miklós	=	Nicholas.
Ödön	=	Edmund.
Pál	=	Paul.
Salamon	=	Solomon.
Samu	=	Samuel.
Sándor	=	Alexander.
Zigismand	=	Sigismund.

NOTE.—The Hussár Regiment which has been founded by King Matthias of Hungary is written in Hungarian as *Huszár*.



THE PRINCIPAL RULERS OF WÜRTTEMBERG FROM THE
 FOUNDATION OF THE STATE TO ITS CREATION
 AS A KINGDOM

THE HOUSE OF TECK

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

THE ducal family of Teck, as is well known, forms part of that of the reigning House of the kingdom of Würtemberg, both being descended from the ancient House of Zähringen, a family closely related to the Guelph and Hohenstaufen dynasties, who were also the ancestors on the female side of Rudolph of Habsburg, the founder of the Habsburg dynasty.

The Zähringens had their vast possessions in the Duchy of Swabia. The Duchy itself was generally granted by the Emperors of the Saxon and Franconian Houses to their immediate relations, and from the time of the Emperor Frederick of Hohenstaufen till that of Conradin (the last of the line, who was executed in 1268), it was held by various members of the Imperial family.

The Zähringen family had many distinguished members, the first to come into prominence being Berthold of Zähringen, Duke of Carinthia. He was the great opponent of the Emperor Henry IV. and revolted against him in 1073. Berthold II. of Zähringen had the Duchy of Helvetia conferred upon him in 1097. Conrad of Zähringen was a friend and ally of Henry the Proud, and his brother Welf,

THE HOUSE OF TECK

of the powerful House of Guelph. In their struggles against the Emperor Conrad III., Conrad of Zähringen sided with the Guelph princes, the Emperor and his nephew, Frederick Barbarossa, taking the field against them.

It was on this occasion, in the year 1140, when besieging Welf at Weinsberg, that the famous German war-cry of "Kyrie eleison" was exchanged for that of "Welfs and Waiblingen," designating the struggle between Welf of Altdorf and the Imperial House of Hohenstaufen, who had their castle at Waiblingen. This war-cry the Italians afterwards adapted in their own language as Guelfo and Ghibellino, corresponding to the German Welf and Waiblingen, and applied it to the Papal and Imperial parties of Italy.

It was at the battle referred to that Welf was defeated after a long siege, and was about to surrender. The Emperor Conrad, however, sent word to the women of the garrison that they could leave the city unmolested, and take with them whatever they could carry. Much to the surprise of the Emperor and his army, the Duchess, Welf's wife, came out from the city gates bearing her husband on her shoulders, all the other women following her example. This devotion on the women's part greatly impressed the Emperor, who, in spite of the persuasion of his advisers to the contrary, permitted the garrison to depart in this way, exclaiming, "An Emperor must keep his word."

This same Conrad of Zähringen allied himself later with Henry the Lion, son of Henry the Proud,

THE ZÄHRINGEN FAMILY

and whilst Conrad III. was in the Holy Land they devastated the lands of the heathen Wends, executed their chiefs, and destroyed their pagan temples at Oldenburg.

Berthold IV. (1152) established many of the Swiss towns; whilst his son, Berthold V., became eminent as the founder, in 1191, of the great city of Berne, and the free institutions of Switzerland. He accompanied the Emperor Frederick I. in the Crusades, and, on his return, conquered the Burgundians. On the extinction of the House of Zähringen, Rudolph I. of Habsburg, the founder of that illustrious house, inherited the bulk of the Zähringen estates, through his mother, who was a Countess of Kyburg and a descendant of the Zähringens, but a portion thereof was given to the Counts of Württemberg.

When, after the death of Conradin in 1268, no more Dukes were appointed, the Counts of Württemberg, by right of seniority, assumed the government of the country, as Counts, and secured an additional increase of territory.

Prior to this period very little is known to history of the family whose ancestral castle crowns one of the hills between Esslingen and Cannstatt. Tradition, however, mentions several Counts of Württemberg, and amongst them a certain Conradin de Wirtemberg, who lived in 1090. Another member of the family was Johannson of Württemberg, who in 1138 was sent by Frederick the One-eyed, Duke of Swabia, on a mission to Stuttgart to ask the hand of the only daughter of the Margrave Rudolph

THE HOUSE OF TECK

of Baden for his son, Prince Frederick Barbarossa. But instead of fulfilling his mission, he seems to have become himself enamoured of the princess, who encouraged his suit and became his wife, bringing him as a dowry the city of Stuttgart. Jakob Frischler, the historian, wrote a comedy on the subject, published in 1612.

But the historic founder of the Württemberg ruling House was Ulrich I. (1241–1265), followed by Ulrich II. (1265–1279). This latter was succeeded by Eberhard the Illustrious (1279–1325). Eberhard greatly extended the possessions and power of the family and made Stuttgart his capital.

There can be but little doubt that the close family ties between the Counts of Habsburg and those of Württemberg proved in time to come of great advantage to the latter House, for when Rudolph of Habsburg became German King (1273–1291) he greatly favoured the princes to whom he was nearly related, and the Counts of Württemberg came in for the largest share of his patronage, receiving enormous grants of land in Swabia.

Eberhard V.'s fidelity to Rudolph's successor, Albert I., and afterwards to Frederick the Handsome of Austria, did not remain unrewarded, for Duke Leopold gave him in pledge half of the Burg of Teck, together with Kirchheim and Sigmaringen, of which the family of Habsburg had previously become possessed. Later Duke Leopold of Austria confirmed this grant in perpetuity to Ulrich III. (1325–1344) in consideration of his renouncing his share of their common inheritance in Alsace.



PRINCE ALEXANDER OF WÜRTEMBERG
FATHER OF THE LATE DUKE OF TECK, IN HUNGARIAN UNIFORM

COUNTS OF WÜRTEMBERG

Ulrich III., however, at a later date, in 1343, fell out with Dukes Leopold, Albert, and Frederick over the purchase of a number of countships. As a result, he invaded their Austrian territories, causing great devastation.

In connection with the Counts of Würtemberg it might be of interest to mention that at the time of the murder of the Emperor Albert I. by his nephew John of Habsburg (known as "The Parricide"), Walter von Eschenbach, a great feudal lord, who was implicated in this plot, and whose possessions in consequence were seized, took service as a shepherd with the Counts of Würtemberg, living on their estates for nearly thirty-five years without his identity being discovered till his death.

EBERHARD V. (1457-1496)

With Eberhard, surnamed "im Bart," the ducal line of Würtemberg commences. This Duke attached to his Court many of the most illustrious scholars of his epoch. To him is due the foundation of the famous University of Tübingen in 1477. It was as a reward for his assistance when practically a captive in Flanders that the Emperor Maximilian raised Eberhard to the rank of Duke (1495). Under him also the country, which for forty years was divided amongst the two branches of the family, became united under one sceptre.

Of this Eberhard "with the Beard" it is interesting to note that in 1468 he made a pilgrimage

THE HOUSE OF TECK

to the Holy Land, and was duly created a Knight of the Holy Deputation, from this moment leaving his beard to grow in remembrance of his journey. From the Holy Land he brought back with him a palm-tree, which he planted in the churchyard at Tübingen, which survived for nearly two centuries, and figures in all the portraits that exist of him.

Duke Ulrich I. (1498–1550) proved himself possessed of great military abilities. He was, however, most extravagant, which led to a rising in 1514 known to history as the “Poor Conrad” revolt. When banished from his estates for killing the favourite of his consort, he, with the aid of his relative, Philip of Hesse, not long after forcibly regained his Duchy, the Emperor Charles V. confirming him in his rights. On his return he introduced the Reformed faith into the Duchy.

His son Christopher (1550–1568) introduced a system of law and church government which has endured in part to the present day, and the establishment in his reign of a standing committee for the supervision of finances was the beginning of a popular representation in the Government.

Duke Frederick I. (1593–1608) established the glory of the Ducal House, and at no time prior to this has Würtemberg enjoyed such a period of splendour. Historians have more than once compared him with Louis XIV., or his namesake Frederick I., the founder of the kingdom of Würtemberg. It was due to his influence that the Emperor Rudolph II. raised the Duchy once more to an immediate fief of the Empire.



COUNTESS CLAUDIA RHÉDEY

(HER MAJESTY'S GRANDMOTHER), AT THE TIME OF HER ENGAGEMENT TO
PRINCE ALEXANDER OF WÜRTEMBERG

From a portrait, by kind permission of Baroness Ödön de Horváth, née Countess de Rhédey

DUKES OF WÜRTEMBERG

In 1603 Duke Frederick, on visiting England, received from King James I. the Order of the Garter, and a very imposing ceremony celebrated the event on the return of the Duke to his Duchy. Duke Frederick was a great traveller and wrote a most interesting description of his travels in England, France, and other parts of the Continent. He died in 1608, the same year as the Emperor Rudolph II.

In the reign of Duke John Frederic (1608–1628) Würtemberg suffered a great deal from the Thirty Years' War, in connection with which it is interesting to note that when the Elector Frederick V., after the defeat of the Bohemians at the White Mountains in 1620, was outlawed by the German Emperor, the young Duke Magnus of Würtemberg fell by the side of Christian of Brunswick, in the cause of the Palatine, after receiving no less than twelve wounds in the great battle with Tilly's forces.

The Thirty Years' War, in which Duke Eberhard III. (1628–1674) took part, proved disastrous to Würtemberg, which was occupied by the Imperial troops, and he himself was driven into exile, though by the Treaty of Westphalia he was reinstated.

Under Eberhard IV. (1677–1733) Würtemberg suffered from repeated invasions by the French.

Duke Charles Alexander (1733–1737) was the first Duke to embrace the Roman Catholic religion, and it is said he aimed at the suppression of the Diet and the introduction of the Romish faith, but his sudden death put an end to these plans.

Duke Charles Eugene (1737–1793), whilst being

THE HOUSE OF TECK

a gifted prince, has left the reputation of being much influenced by his favourites, but he none the less rendered his Court for more than a generation one of the most brilliant on the Continent.

Frederick Eugene (1793–1797), a brother of Charles Eugene, had been brought up as a Protestant, and the royal family have remained Protestants ever since.

Frederick Eugene, as we shall see later, was the immediate ancestor of the Royal House of Würtemberg, and through the marriage of several of his children, his House became closely related with the greatest reigning families of Europe. During the rule of his son, Duke Frederick (1797–1816), Würtemberg saw a great deal of fighting and was drawn into the great Napoleonic wars. First as an ally of Austria and then of Napoleon, and finally deserting the latter, by the Treaty of Pozsony (Pressburg), 1805, the Duchy of Würtemberg was created a kingdom. By King Frederick's diplomatic abilities, Würtemberg was very considerably increased in size, in the general rearrangement of the map of Europe, though, in exchange for their increased territories in Germany, they had to give up Montbeliard, which had been held by the family for nearly four centuries.

Since that period the history of Würtemberg belongs to modern times. We know that Frederick I., King of Würtemberg, before even he succeeded to the Duchy, married, as his first wife (1780), Princess Augusta, daughter of Duke Charles William Ferdinand of Brunswick and a sister of the future Queen



HIS HIGHNESS THE LATE DUKE OF TECK

PUBLISHED BY KIND PERMISSION OF H.H. THE PRESENT DUKE OF TECK

KINGS OF WÜRTEMBERG

Caroline of England, and secondly, in 1797, Princess Charlotte Matilda, Princess Royal of England, daughter of George III., and thus became closely connected with the English royal family.

But King Frederick's brother, Louis, Duke of Würtemberg, united the two royal Houses of England and Würtemberg still more closely, for from him, as the grandfather of the late Duke of Teck, descends, on the paternal side, Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, the beloved consort of King George, the ideal of the people of the British Empire.

The House of Würtemberg, already connected by marriage with the leading princely houses, became, in recent times, still more closely related to the greatest dynasties of Europe. The relationship to the Imperial Court of Russia was principally brought about through the marriage, in 1776, of Czar Paul I. to the Princess Dorothea Sophia, daughter of Duke Frederick Eugene of Würtemberg, who, as Empress, was received into the Greek Church as Maria Feodorovna, and became the mother of Czar Alexander I. One of her daughters, Catherine (Paulovna), married King William I. of Würtemberg (1816–1864) as his second wife.* King William's successor, Charles I. of Würtemberg (1864–91), married Princess Olga, daughter of Czar Nicholas I., who, as is known, married the daughter of Frederick III. of Prussia.

Between the House of Habsburg and that of

* King William married as his first wife Princess Charlotte, daughter of King Maximilian of Bavaria, and as his third wife Princess Pauline, daughter of Duke Louis of Würtemberg.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

Württemberg, as we have seen, there has existed for centuries a close relationship, but in recent times the two reigning houses became even more intimately united by frequent intermarriage, brought about through the immediate ancestors of Her Majesty. It must be remembered that the Archduke Francis, afterwards Emperor Francis I., married Elizabeth, daughter of Frederick Eugene of Würtemberg ; whilst Archduke Joseph, Palatine of Hungary,* married, as his third wife, Princess Maria Dorothea, daughter of Louis, Duke of Würtemberg.

Of the other sons of Duke Frederick Eugene, Duke Alexander, who died in 1833, married the daughter of Duke Francis of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld, and through his son Alexander, who married the Princess Marie (daughter of King Louis Philippe, the gifted sculptress of the famous statue of Joan of Arc which adorns the Grand Place at Orleans), the Würtemberg Royal House, not only became related to the House of Orleans, but through this source still further connected with the House of Habsburg.

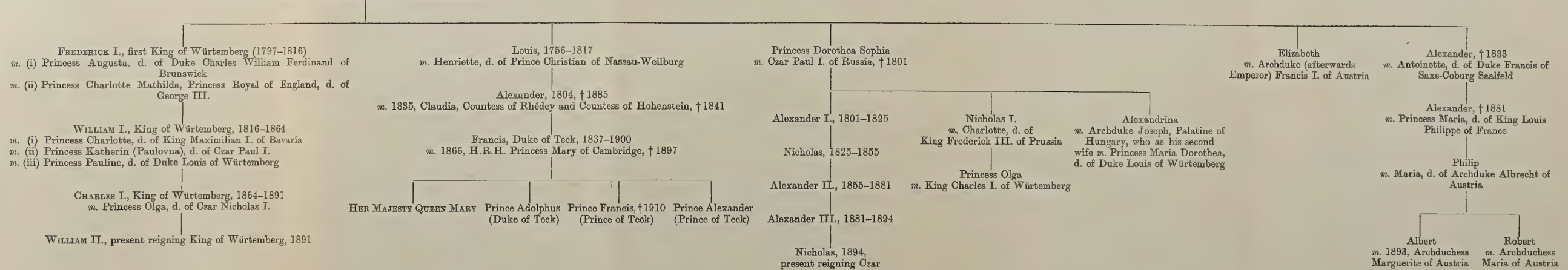
The above, of course, is merely an outline of the eventful record of the House of Würtemberg which, for so many centuries, has played such an important part in the history of the Roman Empire, and more recently contributed to the aggrandisement of the present Empire of Germany, all of which is known to the student of history.

* The Archduke Joseph married as his first wife Alexandrina Paulovna, daughter of Czar Paul, and as his second wife Hermine, daughter of Charles, Prince of Anhalt.

GENEALOGICAL TABLE I

SHOWING THE DESCENT OF HER MAJESTY FROM THE HOUSE OF WÜRTEMBERG, AND THE FAMILY CONNECTION WITH THE IMPERIAL HOUSES OF RUSSIA, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY,
AND THE ROYAL HOUSES OF FRANCE, PRUSSIA, ETC.

DUKE FREDERICK EUGENE OF WÜRTEMBERG, † 1797



THE DUKES OF TECK

The princely House of Teck was originally founded by Adalbert of Zähringen, who died in 1197, and takes its name from the feudal castle of Teck, situated on one of the many picturesque peaks which render the Lauter Valley so beautiful. Of the castle only a few ruins now remain, together with the Gothic chapel containing a few family relics. As we said before, when the Teck family became extinct, in 1493, it was given first in part as a pledge, and ultimately as a whole in perpetuity by the Dukes of Austria to the Counts of Württemberg. Later, in the reign of the Emperor Maximilian (1564–1576), Duke Eberhard of Württemberg obtained from the Emperor the right to assume the title and quarter the Teck arms with those of Württemberg. These honours have been borne by the Dukes of Württemberg till the foundation of the kingdom of Württemberg in 1805.

After the marriage of Prince Alexander of Württemberg to Claudia, Countess Rhédey, from which union sprang the late Duke of Teck and his two sisters, the Countess received from the Emperor of Austria the additional title of Countess of Hohenstein, which title was also given to her children. In 1863 King William of Württemberg granted the late Duke of Teck the title of Prince, and in 1871 he was created Duke. The present Duke of Teck and his brother, Prince Alexander, in bearing this title may indeed feel a certain pride that it is one of the oldest to be found in the *Almanach de Gotha*, and one that their ancestors have borne for over eight centuries.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

CHAPTER II

HER MAJESTY'S HUNGARIAN DESCENT

Proud as Her Majesty has every right to be of her Würtemberg ancestors, her descent on the Hungarian side is by no means less illustrious. As a member of the Rhédey family on his mother's side, Her Majesty's father was a direct descendant of the historic House of Aba and the royal Árpád dynasty.

That dynasty was one of the oldest and mightiest in Europe. The Byzantine and German Empires, and parts of France, Spain, and Italy, were in constant fear of its rulers and became tributary to it in the early part of the tenth century. The House of Árpád supplied some of the most illustrious monarchs to the world; St. Stephen, Samu Aba, St. Ladislaus, Kálmán, were all great kings whose fame spread over the civilised globe. The greatest royal houses in Europe were proud to become allied by marriage to this dynasty. The House of Guelph was the first to seek marriage alliance with the House of Árpád, long before it became connected with England, and whilst Her Majesty's ancestors of the House of Hohenstaufen have supplied several Queens to Hungary, the dynasty of Árpád has in exchange given to it one of the greatest princesses in Christianity—St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

Nor were these the only alliances. The illustrious Polish House of Piast became allied by marriage with the Árpád dynasty in the tenth century, and Boleslaw the Lion-Hearted, the greatest of Polish



PRINCESS CLAUDINE OF TECK
(SISTER TO HIS HIGHNESS THE LATE DUKE OF TECK)

Published by kind permission of His Highness the Duke of Teck

THE HOUSE OF ÁRPÁD

kings, descended from the same blood, as did Her Majesty's Hungarian ancestors.

Numerous were its alliances with the Royal Houses of France and Arragon.

The Ducal House of Russia and the Norman Kings of Sicily were proud that their daughters became Queens of Hungary. Many were the Princesses of Hungary belonging to the Royal House of Árpád who became queens of great empires and kingdoms.

One sat on the Byzantine throne, and more than one became Queen of the House of Anjou ; whilst others were the Queens of the House of Jagellon, whose descendants ruled for centuries in Poland, Bohemia, and also in Sweden.

Further, it must be recalled with pride that St. Margaret, the greatest queen that ever sat upon the Scottish throne, the ancestress of Their Majesties, first saw the light in Hungary and was closely connected with the House of Árpád.

The ancient House of Habsburg has for centuries sought alliances with the House of Árpád, and in the veins of Hungary's present revered King, the Emperor-King Francis Joseph, flows the blood of the ancient Árpád dynasty.

When we further say that Her Majesty's Hungarian ancestors who descend from this illustrious dynasty have for centuries and centuries furnished Hungary with the greatest heroes in its history, heroes who rendered the greatest service to Christianity and to the cause of the Reformation, England may well be proud of having a Queen upon the Throne who can claim such an illustrious and glorious descent.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

The Rhédey family, from which Her Majesty the Queen and her brothers are descended on the paternal side, is one of the most illustrious families in Hungary. The progenitor of this historic house was Duke Ede, one of the seven dukes who accompanied his kinsman Árpád in his conquest of Hungary more than a thousand years ago. Duke Ede's great-grandson, Samu Aba, married the sister of King St. Stephen, and subsequently, after his death, became King of Hungary. A long line of heroes, the descendants of Duke Ede—known under the name of Rhédey—distinguished themselves in the cause of freedom and Christianity, and furnished rulers to the Throne of Transylvania.

Numerous are the legends and stories connected with the personality of Duke Ede and his origin, amongst which we shall relate the following as having reference to the foundation of the Hungarian State.

THE EMPIRE OF ATTLA

After the death of Attila a quarrel ensued between his two sons, Aladár and Csaba, over the division of the Empire. The neighbouring states took advantage of the brothers' quarrel, with the result that they attacked the country. Aladár perished, while Csaba, with the remnant of his army, managed to escape. A number of his followers took refuge in the mountains of Transylvania, whilst the rest, led by Csaba, went over to the Byzantine Empire.

Csaba's mother, having been an Imperial Princess of Greece, a daughter of the Emperor Honorius, the



THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN

THE DREAM OF EMESE

Emperor Marcianus accorded Csaba a favourable reception, and he remained at the Imperial Court for some years, ultimately, however, returning with the remnants of his army to the home of their ancestors on the banks of the Don, where, up to the time of his death, he never tired of persuading the Magyars to emigrate into the beautiful land of Pannonia, and to avenge themselves on their enemies who caused the destruction of the Empire of Attila.

THE BIRTH OF ÁLMOS

Many generations passed away; the Magyars were still living in Central Asia, when a woman of the tribe of Aba, Emese by name, the wife of the Chief Ögyek, a descendant of Csaba, dreamed a strange dream—that a bird settled on her breast, and thence flew into her garden, from which a little stream broke forth, flooding the whole of Asia and a portion of Europe. She also saw a tree growing in her garden whose branches spread all over the world. The tree lived for hundreds of years and bore rich fruit. When it died, numerous other trees sprang into existence from its many branches, and these continued to flourish with all the splendour and magnificence of the parent tree. She went to a soothsayer, and it was prophesied to her that she would give birth to a son whose fame would spread far and wide, and who would be destined to reconquer the beautiful land of Pannonia far away, which, once upon a time, was held by their ancestors, the Huns.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

The child having been born, it received the name of Álmos (meaning in the Magyar language a dream), and as it grew up the chiefs of the various tribes assembled and elected him to take the supreme command, and decided upon the reconquest of the Empire of the Huns. The chiefs who elected Álmos to this important position, and accompanied him in the quest for the new land, were Előd, Kund, Tass, Huba, Tühütüm, Onud, and Ede. They were all powerful princes, descendants of mighty houses and rulers, but the most powerful of all was the Duke Ede, chief of the tribe of Aba, the lineal descendants of Csaba, the second son of Attila. Álmos died before the cherished land was reached, and his son, Árpád, was chosen as his successor; under his guidance the Magyars crossed the Carpathians and reached Hungary in 889, and after defeating the various princes who ruled the country, took possession of it, regarding it as their inheritance from the Huns.

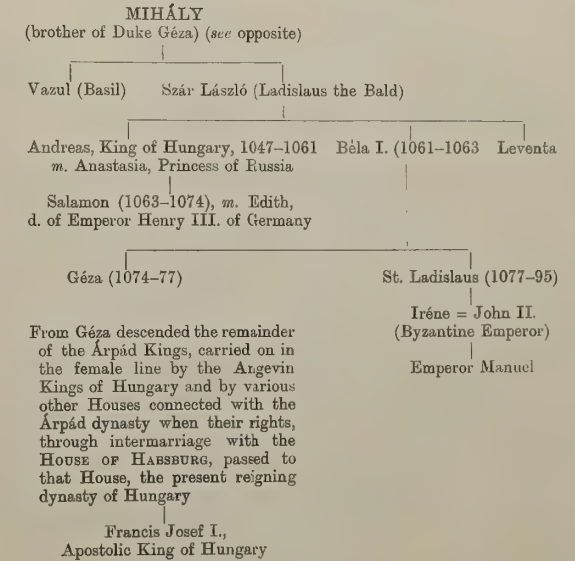
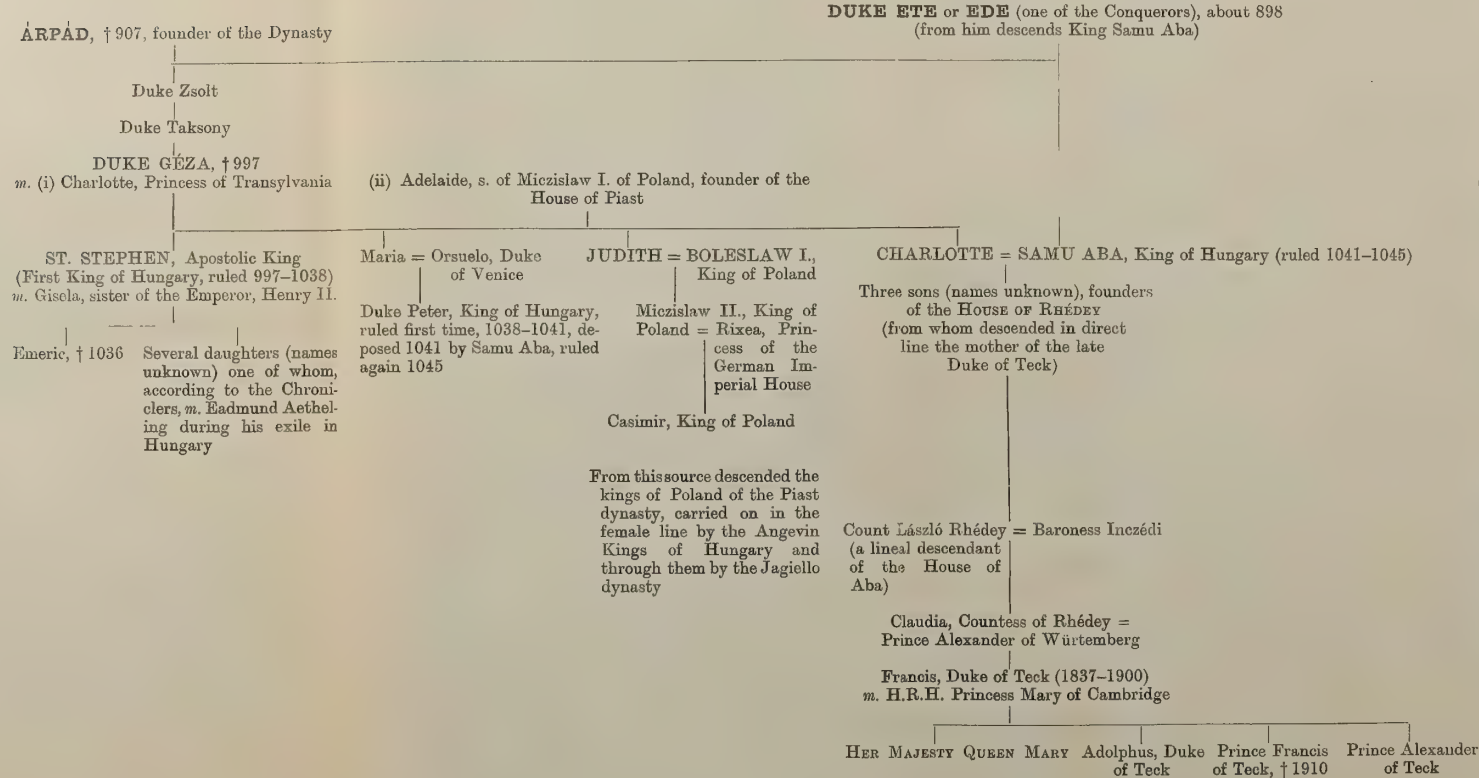
THE HOUSE OF ABA

By reason of their descent, and of the great share they had in the conquest of Hungary, the Aba family took high rank amongst the members of the ruling House, and it was therefore quite in keeping with that rank for Samu, or Samuel Aba, a grandson of Duke Ede, to marry the royal Princess Charlotte, sister of St. Stephen, the first Christian King of Hungary (1000-1038).

By this marriage Samuel Aba became connected with the Imperial House of Germany and the reign-

GENEALOGICAL TABLE II

SHOWING THE CONNECTION OF HER MAJESTY'S HUNGARIAN ANCESTORS WITH THE ROYAL DYNASTY OF ÁRPÁD, AND THE POLISH HOUSE OF PIAST, AND THE IMPERIAL HOUSE OF GERMANY AND BYZANTINE EMPERORS, ETC.



THE HOUSE OF ABA

ing families of Russia, Sweden, Greece, France, and England.*

SAMU OR SAMUEL ABA

Samuel Aba was one of the bravest soldiers of his time, and with the introduction of Christianity into Hungary he proved to be one of its greatest champions.

It was he who vanquished and slew Kupa, the leader of the heathen revolt in the Balaton district, and it was also he who raised the emblem of Christianity in the virgin forest of the Mátra mountain range. In recognition of his services, St. Stephen raised him to the dignity of Palatine of Hungary ;

* The relationship with the Polish reigning dynasty was a very near one. Aba's consort, Queen Charlotte, was a daughter of Duke Géza of Hungary and his consort, the Polish Princess Adelheid. Then, again, a sister of the Queen, Princess Judith, was married to their cousin, the great Polish King, Boleslaw I. Boleslaw's eldest daughter, Estrid, became a Swedish princess, and her daughter Insigered became the wife of Yaroslav the Great, of Russia. Another daughter of Boleslaw was married to Duke Sviatopolk, a younger brother of Yaroslav. Three sons of Yaroslav married respectively princesses of Germany, Greece, and England, whilst three of his daughters became Queens of Norway, France, and Hungary. The Bohemian connection originally came about through Miczislav I., who married the beautiful Princess Dabrowka, daughter of Boleslaw, Duke of Bohemia. The Hungarian and Polish Royal Houses became further connected with the Imperial House of Germany by the marriage of Miczislav II. (son of Boleslaw I.) to REXIA, a niece of the Emperor Otto III., and that of St. Stephen to Gisela, the sister of the Emperor Henry II., and further by the marriage of Salaman, King of Hungary, to the daughter of the Emperor Henry III. See Suhm, "History of Denmark." Copenhagen, 1787.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

and, as previously stated, gave him his sister Charlotte as his wife. In this high position Samuel Aba endeared himself to the people so much that at the death of St. Stephen, in the year 1038, without leaving any male issue, and his cousins Andrew and Béla, by the intrigues of Gisela and Peter having to take refuge in Russia, the people desired to elect Samuel Aba as their king. This, however, was strongly opposed by Queen Gisela, who wished to secure the crown for her favourite nephew, Duke Peter. The latter was supported in his candidature by the German Emperor, Henry III., and in due course was elected King of Hungary.

Peter was, however, most unpopular, partly owing to his foreign descent (his mother, sister of St. Stephen, having been married to Duke Orseolo of Venice), and more so for his tyrannical rule, and after a short and inglorious reign he was driven out of the country by the Hungarian troops under the command of Samuel Aba, who was elected king in his stead.

Peter, however, who had taken refuge with his brother-in-law, the Duke of Austria, induced the Emperor by the influence of the latter to promise his support for the reconquest of Hungary.

This having come to the knowledge of Samu Aba, he immediately despatched an ambassador to the Emperor Henry, informing him that unless the Emperor renounced his plan in this respect, he would at once invade Germany.

The Emperor, feeling insulted by the haughty attitude adopted by Samu Aba, and trusting too



ST. STEPHEN
FIRST KING OF HUNGARY (1000-1038)
Copied from Sildgyi's "History of Hungary"

KING SAMU ABA

much in the strength of his army, declined to give this undertaking, whereupon Samu Aba invaded Germany and inflicted heavy losses on the German arms, returning with great spoils to Hungary.

Immediately after this Samu Aba set to work to reorganise the State which, during the misrule of Peter, had fallen to a low ebb. He set aside the German laws introduced by Peter, and reinstated those instituted by St. Stephen.

At the beginning of his reign Samu Aba made himself most popular. He was very fond of the peasantry, and was frequently seen in their company, and would say to them, "Whatever there is in the country is the common property of king and people." (*See Thuróczy's "Historia Regum Hungaricorum."*) The peasants on their part became greatly attached to him, and owing to the fatherly interest he took in them, they insisted on styling him King Apa (meaning in Hungarian, "father"), or Aba, by which the family came to be known.

His popularity with the people rather displeased the haughty nobles, who were accustomed to treat the peasants as their serfs. This attitude led him to adopt severe measures and persecutions. The clergy, too, though he endowed numerous churches and monasteries, took a great dislike to him and joined in an intrigue against him with the exiled King Peter. The latter invaded the country at the head of an army placed at his disposal by the German Emperor, Henry III., but was shamefully defeated by King Aba's troops, and though the army led by the Emperor himself was more successful, yet

THE HOUSE OF TECK

he readily agreed to conclude peace, and, abandoning the cause of Peter, the Emperor withdrew his forces from Hungary. Later, however, he was again persuaded to invade the country, and this time good fortune seemed to desert King Aba, who, at a sanguinary engagement with the Emperor Henry's army, at the battle of Menfő, near Győr, was totally defeated. Aba and a few of his adherents managed with great difficulty to make good their escape by cutting through the dense forest of Bakony, and taking refuge in a peasant's cottage. Ill fate, however, seemed to follow the King to his hiding-place, for the cottage was struck by lightning, and he had to fly to Csaba, where he was pursued by the enemy, and here, in accordance with some historians, in the town which bore the name of his ancestor, King Aba was slain by his pursuers, whilst others maintain that he lived for some time trying to raise another army, but was treacherously killed by a personal opponent at the town of Füzes Abony, named after him.

King Samuel Aba was buried in the monastery at Saar, founded by him, and his memory was preserved throughout the length and breadth of the kingdom of Hungary for many centuries after his tragic death.

SAMU ABA'S GREAT WEALTH

Samu Aba was possessed of enormous wealth and was regarded as the richest sovereign of his time. The fame of his vast treasures which were piled up



KING SAMU ABA (1041-1044)



QUEEN GIZELA
QUEEN OF HUNGARY

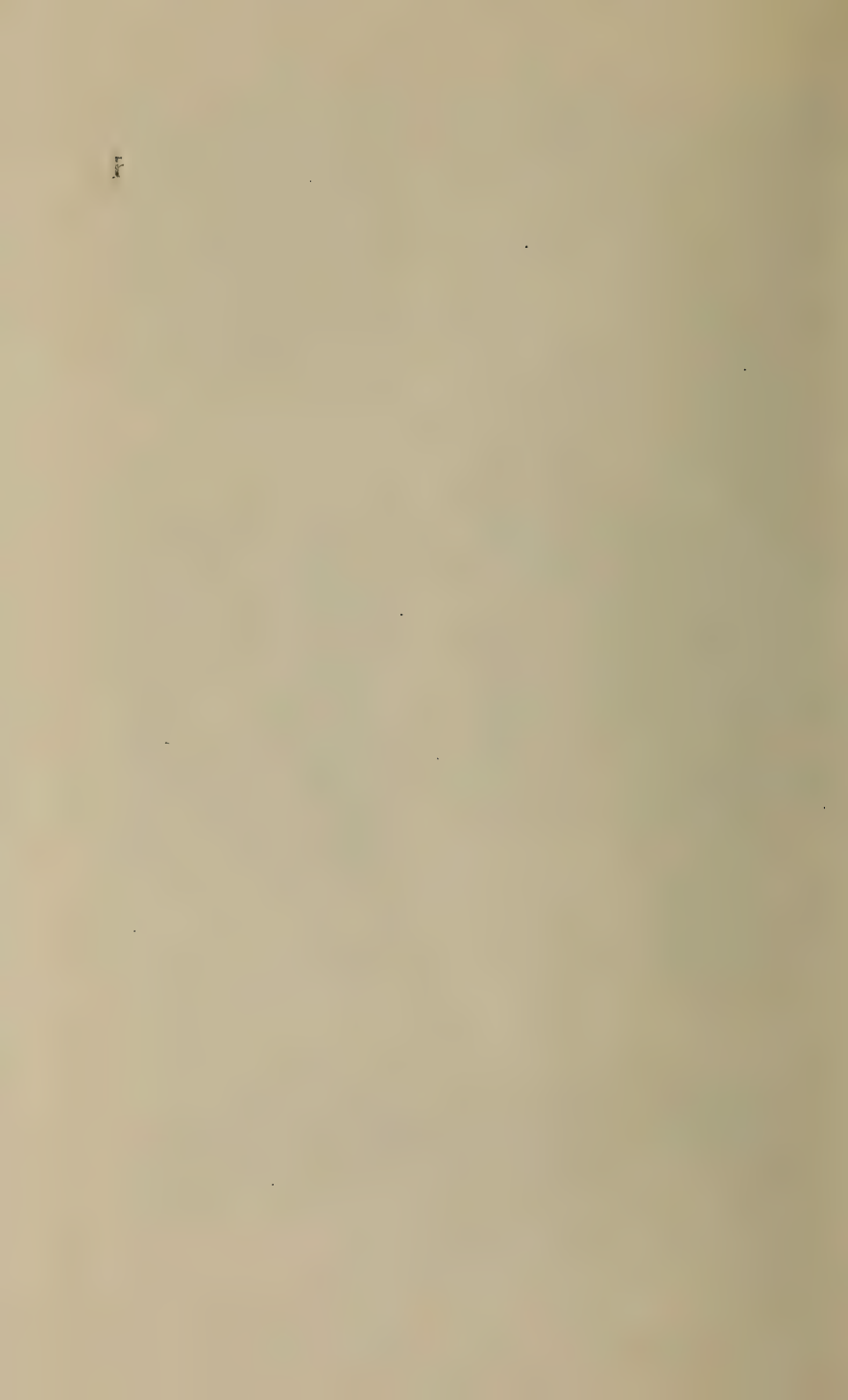


KING SAMU ABA SENDS A
MESSAGE OF DEFIANCE
TO THE EMPEROR
HENRY III.



COINS OF KING ABA

(Copied from the "Vienna Chronicles")



KING SAMU ABA

at Esztergom and Győr, spread all over Germany, and some historians suggest it was more the greed to become possessed of these treasures than the desire to reinstate King Peter on the throne, which made the Germans so repeatedly invade Hungary. It is certainly a fact that the rich presents of King Aba induced the Emperor Henry III. to withdraw his troops from Hungary, and also that after the defeat of Samu Aba at Győr his enormous treasures were seized by the Emperor Henry III., and the great booty enriched many of his German vassals and partisans who aided him in the war against King Samu Aba.

ABA'S GENEROSITY

The following episode related of King Aba by Hungarian historians will prove that although he was accused of cruelty he was yet generous towards his adversaries.

During the Easter holidays the King visited the town of Csanad. It was customary in those days for a monarch who came to the town to attend a religious ceremony, on which occasion the bishop of the diocese placed the crown upon his head. Bishop Gellért, the famous prelate (who a year later became a martyr to the cause of Christianity by being thrown into the Danube by Vatha, the heathen rebel, from the steep cliff of Buda, now bearing the name of St. Gellért), refused to perform the ceremony, and, getting into the pulpit, delivered a violent harangue in Latin against the King and the enemies of Chris-

THE HOUSE OF TECK

tianity. This caused great indignation amongst the Court functionaries present, who tried to stop the Bishop, but King Aba insisted on his continuing his speech, whereupon Bishop Gellért said, "I know my head is in danger, but I am ready to repeat all I have said." This caused still greater consternation amongst the Court dignitaries, who naturally expected that the Bishop would be severely punished for his conduct by the King.

Great was their surprise, however, when, at the conclusion of the ceremony, the King, instead of reprimanding the Bishop, turned towards the large congregation, none of whom had understood the Latin language in which the Bishop had spoken, and, addressing them in the Hungarian tongue, said, "It is a pity that such a wonderful discourse as that delivered by the Bishop should not be understood by his parishioners." He admired the Bishop greatly, he continued, for his wonderful courage, and he had his entire support for pursuing the enemies of Christianity.

FAMILY LEGENDS

The ancient Hungarian folk-lore, which the Magyars brought with them from Asia, is full of praise of Tomaj-Aba and other ancestors of King Aba, which proves that the Aba family had played an important rôle before the Hungarian conquest during the pagan era; but there are also many pretty legends about King Aba himself preserved to the present day, amongst which the following may prove of interest.



THE TOWN HALL, GYŐR



VIEW OF GYŐR
(GYŐR WAS THE TREASURE CITY OF KING SAMU ABA)

THE SAAR LEGEND

THE SAAR LEGEND

King Aba was fast asleep in the Castle of Saar, when his faithful servant woke him with the dreadful news that his only daughter, the beautiful princess, had been carried away by some unknown miscreants. The King at once saddled his horse and, accompanied by his entire household, rode over the hills and plains as far as Buda and Eger, in search of his daughter. At last, after a fruitless search, they returned to Saar. The King, who could not be consoled at the sad loss, ordered the White Friars of Saar (the monastery founded by him) to pray for the recovery of the Princess.

Weeks and weeks elapsed, but the Princess had not been restored. At last Christmas came, and the good people of Saar, who were sharing the King's sorrow over his loss, attended midnight mass. One of the peasants, who had evidently taken more wine than he ought to have done, fell asleep in the chapel. Everybody had left, and when he awoke and looked round in the dim light of the oil lamp, what did he, to his great surprise, see ? Two friars were silently walking, the one carrying food in his hands, and the other wine ; they gently approached the crypt and lifted the heavy stone, and then descended the narrow steps ; the peasant's curiosity was aroused, and he silently followed them, and his astonishment was great when he heard the voice of the beautiful Princess, who implored the White Friars to let her go to her father.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

The peasant at once rushed away and ran as fast as he could towards the King's palace to break the joyful news.

The King, who was fast asleep when the peasant arrived, immediately arose and saddled his horse, and, accompanied by his household, proceeded to the monastery of Saar. The King asked the friars to give him up his daughter, but they all denied she was concealed there. The King then broke into the monastery, where he found his daughter, and, in his extreme rage, ordered all the monks, forty-four in number, to be killed.

KING ABA'S TEARS

Another legend runs as follows:—

It was night, a dark night. King Aba was lying headless on the battlefield. Next to him lay his faithful servant Kaba, who was knocked down and rendered senseless by the sword of an enemy. All at once the moon peeped out and lit up the sad and ghastly spectacle. Kaba, too, awoke from his dreams and regained consciousness, and as he looked round and saw the dead body of his master, he burst into tears and picked up the monarch's head, which was still bleeding, kissed it, and bathed it with tears. He then covered it with the King's helmet that was close by, and hurried away from the spot towards the forest. He found there, wandering about, the King's steed, which approached him sadly. He mounted it and galloped towards the Matra Mountains. He reached Agasvár (the fort of Agas); here

THE MÁTRA LEGEND

he stopped and dug a hole in the cliff of the Tar Valley, where he laid the King's head down in order to bury it there, when all at once the eyes of the dead monarch opened, and tears flowed from them like a torrent. The head commenced to speak, and said, "Kaba, my son, I will always mourn and weep for my beautiful country." Hardly had these words been uttered than the head slipped down in the depth of the cliff, and from it sprang the so-called Csevicze stream, which still flows from the Valley of Tar, and is called by the peasants, "The spring formed out of King Aba's tears."

But we shall now pass from the world of legend to that of history, and refer in the following pages to some of the most important rulers of the time whose near kinship to Samu Aba claim our attention.

DUKE GÉZA AND ST. ADELBERT

Duke Géza, the father-in-law of Samuel Aba, was the first Christian Duke of Hungary of the House of Árpád. His first wife, Charlotte, was a daughter of the Transylvanian Waiwode Gyula. She was a woman of great intellect, who more than once had occasion to fight the enemies of her country. Having been brought up at the Byzantine Court she was converted, whilst still young, to Christianity, and she also induced her husband to accept that faith, and both he and their newly-born child were baptised by St. Adelbert, Bishop of Prague, the young Prince receiving the name of Stephen in place of his former name Vajk.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

Duke Géza, however, whilst acknowledging himself to be a true adherent of the Christian faith, and laying the foundation of the great Benedictine monastery of Pannonhalma, of which St. Adelbert became the first Prior, was accused of still having great leanings towards the pagan religion, and of him, it is related, that when he was accused by Bishop Wolfgang for secretly worshipping the pagan idols, he is said to have given the characteristic answer, "And supposing I do, what does it matter? I am rich enough to offer gifts to two gods at the same time."

His wife, Charlotte, having died, he was married again to Adelhaide, a Polish princess, sister of Duke Miczislav I., of the great Polish House of Piast. The marriage is said to have been brought about by the German Emperor, Otto I., who was anxious to secure Duke Géza as an ally.

Princess Adelhaide was possessed of great beauty and was famed in both Hungary and Poland for her excellent horsemanship, and won many races against the most skilful riders in both countries. She ruled both her husband and the country.

By his second marriage Duke Géza had three daughters. Historians do not quite agree as to their names, but it is generally believed that they were respectively Judith, Charlotte, and Maria. The former was married to her cousin, Boleslaw I., King of Poland; the second, Charlotte, to Samuel Aba, as previously stated; and the third to Duke Otto, son of Duke Peter Orseolo of Venice. His son Stephen received as wife Gisela, sister of the famous



THE BENEDICTINE MONASTERY OF PANNONHALMA
(GODFREY DE BOUILLON STAYED HERE ON HIS WAY TO THE HOLY LAND)



THE TOWN HALL, KOMÁROM



MILLENNIUM MEMORIAL
AT PANNONHALMA

ST. STEPHEN APOSTOLIC KING

Emperor Henry II., on her mother's side a Burgundian princess, and thus closely akin to the House of Guelph.

By this marriage the feud between Hungary and Germany was put to an end, and Hungary became a place of refuge for many German feudal lords, who, enticed by the great wealth of the country, settled there and founded families, amongst whose descendants there are still many who hold the highest positions in Hungary.

Duke Géza died in 997 and was succeeded by his son Stephen.

THE NOBLE LIFE OF ST. STEPHEN

The legend goes that his mother, Charlotte, before his birth, saw him in her dreams as the apostle of the nation, and so he proved to be.

As soon as he ascended the throne he set to work to put down the heathen worship which was still practised in some parts of the country, and quell the various insurrections stirred up by the adherents of the pagan worshippers.

In memory of his many victories gained over the enemies of Christianity he built a great monastery and dedicated it to St. Martin, and this in course of time became the largest of its kind in Hungary, it being now an Arch-Abbey under the direct control of the Holy See. He also founded the Archbishopric of Esztergom and numerous other bishoprics and monasteries throughout Hungary and Transylvania. Amongst foundations abroad is the Church of St. Stephen at Mount Coelis in Rome, also a college

THE HOUSE OF TECK

for twelve priests on the Vatican Hill, and a hospice for Hungarian pilgrims. Similar foundations were made by him at Constantinople and Jerusalem, and he also founded many religious and public institutions in Hungary.

After restoring order in the country he turned his attention to the spread of Christianity, and sent envoys to Pope Sylvester the Second, announcing to him that he had embraced Christianity, and asking for his blessing. The Pope acceded to this by sending him the crown, together with a Bull proclaiming him as the first state dignitary in Hungary, with the title of Apostolic King of that country. This crown, with which the Hungarian kings are still crowned, had been made for Boleslaw, a prince of Poland, and was to have been sent to him the day after Stephen's envoys arrived ; but, according to the legend, Sylvester saw an angel in his dreams, who asked him not to send the crown to Boleslaw, but give it to the envoys of St. Stephen, who would arrive the next day. On the envoy's return Stephen crowned himself as the first King of Hungary with the crown sent to him by Sylvester, and adopted as his title "Apostolic King of Hungary," which title is still proudly borne by the Kings of Hungary. In accepting, however, the crown and the title of King, Stephen decided to make it clear that Hungary should not be regarded as subject to the Holy Roman Empire.

He then turned his attention to the internal affairs of the country and established many laws, which to this day form the basis of the legislation of Hungary.

ST. STEPHEN APOSTOLIC KING

He organised the county system and the military administration, and defined the position of the nobility and their feudal tenants.

St. Stephen's peaceful rule was, however, disturbed, for the nation, led by Kupa, revolted against Christianity, and it was only after severe fighting that they surrendered. Hardly was order restored in the country, when Gyula, the Prince of Transylvania, who was a relation of Stephen's, tried to upset the Christian religion. Stephen sent a large army to Transylvania and conquered the country, taking Gyula, his wife, and children prisoners, but treating them very kindly. Transylvania was annexed to Hungary, and was ruled by a Waiwode, appointed by the King of Hungary.

Amongst St. Stephen's noble characteristics, described in Bishop Butler's "Lives of the Saints," may be mentioned the following:—

He was of most easy access to people of all ranks, and listened to everyone's complaints without distinction or preference, except that he appeared most willing to hear the poor, knowing them to be the more easily oppressed.

The good King provided for their subsistence throughout his whole kingdom, and took them, especially the helpless widows and orphans, under his special protection, declaring himself their patron and father. But not content with his general charities and care for all the indigent, he frequently went about privately to discover more freely the necessities of any that might have been overlooked by his officers,

THE HOUSE OF TECK

One day it happened that whilst he was dealing out his plentiful alms in disguise, a troop of beggars set upon him, threw him down, plucked him by the beard and hair, and took away his purse, seizing for themselves what he had intended for the relief of many others.

His nobles rallied round him on this occasion, although he did not heed them ; he learned, however, from this incident not to expose his person, but he renewed his resolution never to refuse alms to any poor person that asked him.

Many are the miracles attributed to him. Amongst them is the following :—

After the death of the Saint's great friend, St. Henry, the Emperor, his successor, Conrad II., invaded Hungary with a powerful army in 1030, and advanced so far that St. Stephen was compelled to lead an army against him, though still hoping that bloodshed might be prevented. All things seemed disposed for a decisive battle when, the legend says, St. Stephen again recommended himself and his earnest desire for peace to the Blessed Virgin. To the surprise of all, the Emperor suddenly retreated with his army, and without having accomplished anything, marched home to Germany with as great precipitation as though he had been defeated.

EADMUND IRONSIDE'S CHILDREN IN HUNGARY

The great fame of St. Stephen brought many foreign kings and princes as refugees to his Court at Esztergom. Amongst these was his brother-in-law,



VESZPRÉM

WHERE QUEEN GISELA RESIDED, AS ALSO THE ENGLISH AETHELINGS



THE MONASTERY OF TÍHANY

THE ENGLISH AETHELINGS

Prince Bruno, who, in 1003, sought shelter with him in fear of his brother, Emperor Henry II., against whom he had rebelled, and St. Stephen managed to effect a reconciliation between the two brothers. But from an English point of view it will be of special interest to recall the fact that it was to the Court of St. Stephen that the English Aethelings, the sons of Eadmund Ironside, were sent to save them from the wrath of Canute.

There is a great romance attached to the exile and sojourn of the Aethelings in Hungary. About the year 1017, and during the reign of Canute, the children of Eadmund Ironside, Eadmund and Eadward, who were mere babes, were sent out of the kingdom into Sweden to Canute's half-brother, Olaf or James, with instructions to have them put out of the way. The Swede, a zealous propagator of Christianity, abhorred the crime and sent the children to the King of the Hungarians, who received them most kindly, and brought them up at his Court as his own children. Eadmund, according to some historians, married the daughter of the King of Hungary, but he died young; Eadward, however, survived, and about the year 1040 married a lady of royal descent, Agatha by name, by whom he had three children: Margaret, born in Hungary about 1048, Christina, and Eadgar.

Eadward and his family remained in the land of their adoption till 1057, when a mission from their uncle, Eadward the Confessor, arrived in Hungary, in order to escort them back to England with a view to Eadward being recognised as rightful successor

THE HOUSE OF TECK

to the throne of England. Eadward and his family, in consequence, came to England in the year 1057, but he died shortly after his arrival here. His widow Agatha, and her children, Margaret, Christina and Eadgar, were hospitably received by the Confessor, and remained at the English Court until the Conquest, when they fled to Scotland. Ultimately Margaret was married to Malcolm Canmore, and became the famous Queen—St. Margaret of Scotland.

St. Margaret of Scotland, as is well known, linked together the House of Wessex with that of the other English reigning dynasties, and was the ancestress of the present reigning House of England.*

THE HUNGARIAN ORIGIN OF ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

In connection with St. Margaret of Scotland, it will not be out of place to point out here that there exists a great uncertainty amongst ancient chroniclers and modern historians as to the parentage of St.

* Henry I. of England married Matilda, daughter of King Malcolm of Scotland and St. Margaret (a great grand-daughter of Eadmund Ironside), and thereby strengthened his otherwise insecure title to the Crown. Their daughter, also called Matilda, and better known as the "Lady of England," was married, firstly, to the German Emperor Henry V., and on his decease came back to England (1126). In the following year she was married to Geoffrey, son of Foulques, Count of Anjou, and became the mother of Henry II., the first Angevin King of England. It is also through Robert Bruce, a descendant of Malcolm and St. Margaret, that the Stuarts became the Kings of Scotland and the Kings of England.

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

Margaret's mother, Agatha. The earliest chroniclers refer to her variously as the niece of Queen Gisela, the wife of St. Stephen, who was a sister of the Emperor Henry II., and, therefore, a niece of the Emperor himself. Others again refer to her as the daughter of the Emperor, but it is known that the sainted Henry II. had no children. Most of the chroniclers, on the other hand, refer to her as the daughter of King Salamon of Hungary, but King Salamon was only born in 1052, after the birth of St. Margaret.

These conflicting statements have for centuries given rise to various conjectures on the part of historians, each having no practical foundation, and are impossible to verify by the chronicles of the period.

Having devoted considerable time to the study of the question and the examination of all the circumstances, both historical and traditional, the present writer has come to the conclusion that Agatha was no other than the daughter of King Samu Aba, who ruled about the time (1041-1045) when, according to the accepted theory, the marriage of Eadward the Aetheling to Agatha took place in Hungary.

It is impossible here to enter into details regarding this much disputed question, which will form the subject of a special treatise. Suffice it to say that there seems but little doubt that Agatha was a daughter of Samu Aba, whose name appears to have been confused with that of Salamon—a very excusable error on the part of chroniclers not acquainted

THE HOUSE OF TECK

with the Hungarian language, for it must be remembered that "Samu" is but an abridged form of "Samuel," and is often confused, even by Hungarians themselves, with the name of "Salamon."

This theory reconciles the versions of the chroniclers who refer to Agatha as the niece of Queen Gisela, for Aba having married a sister of St. Stephen, his daughter would be a niece by marriage to Gisela, though not to the Emperor himself. There can be no doubt that this is the solution of the problem, which is in keeping with Hungarian tradition and other circumstances connected with the history of the country.

Such being the case, Hungary may proudly claim that not only Her Majesty the Queen, but King George himself has Hungarian blood in his veins, derived moreover from a common source.

THE TERRA BRITANNORUM IN HUNGARY

Reverting further to the sojourn of the English Aethelings in Hungary, it will be of interest to state that, according to Hungarian historians, the Aethelings during their stay in Hungary had conferred upon them a large tract of land, which still in the thirteenth century was referred to as "*Terra Britannorum de Nadasth*."

This domain, as recently demonstrated by archæologists, is situated in the county of Baranya, near the modern Nádasd, where there is an old ruin, which is claimed to have been the residence of the Aethelings, Eadmund and Eadward, and their



BOLESŁAW I., THE LION-HEARTED
KING OF POLAND, 999-1025

THE TERRA BRITANNORUM

families during the sojourn in Hungary. There is a bridge in the vicinity called "The Bridge of the Three Princes," and learned historians suggest that it was named after the three children of Eadward the Atheling, Eadgar, St. Margaret of Scotland, and Maria, who were born in this castle.

The fact that the domain bestowed upon the Aethelings was situated in the Baranya district would also prove their close association with Samu Aba, inasmuch as this was the territory given to his ancestors at the time of the conquest of Hungary. Further, it is known that a certain Lelesz accompanied the Aethelings back to England, and remained there, and, according to some historians, founded the Scottish house of Leslie and the French house of De l'Isle.

His relations remained in the *Terra Britannorum* in Hungary. Now we know for certain that the Lelesz family form a portion of the Aba stock, and the fact that one of its members should have accompanied the Aethelings to England, and also that the estates of the princes remained in the possession of the Lelesz family, would also show that a great family link existed between the Aethelings and the members of the House of Aba, which in face of all the circumstances connected with the case brings us to the indisputable conclusion that this link was brought about through Agatha, the mother of St. Margaret, who could have been no other than a daughter of King Samu Aba.

The domain of Nádasd, it will be of interest to add, now forms part of the property of the ancient

THE HOUSE OF TECK

family of Nádasdy, who claim to be the descendants of one of the nobles who accompanied the Aethelings from England to Hungary.

BOLESLOW I.

The next to claim our attention is Boleslaw I., the first King of Poland, the brother-in-law of King Samu Aba. He was called by the Poles "Chrobry" (Lion-hearted), whilst the Germans nicknamed him "Trinkbier" owing to his corpulency.

Boleslaw I. was the son of Miczislav I., the first Christian Duke of Poland, by his beautiful wife Dabrowka, daughter of the Duke of Bohemia. He married Judith, the sister of Aba's queen, and amongst his several daughters, one was married to Svíatopolk, the son of Duke Vladimir the Great of Russia, and another to a Swedish prince, and through this marriage became related to the reigning dynasty of England. Boleslaw succeeded his father on the throne of Poland in the year 999, at the age of thirty-two. In his early youth he exhibited great qualities of mind, undaunted courage, and a passionate love for his country. As he grew up he became the ideal of his countrymen, and he well merited this, for he was certainly one of the most humane, affable, and generous men of his time, and with it all, brave and gallant to the extreme. It may be safely said that he inaugurated that chivalry for which Poland was known for many centuries after, during the independence of the country.

The fame of Boleslaw having reached the ears of



COUNTESS CLAUDIA RHÉDEY
(HER MAJESTY'S GRANDMOTHER)

Reproduced from a painting, by kind permission of H.H. the Duke of Teck

BOLESLOW I.

the Emperor Otto III., he decided to pay him a visit on his way back from Rome, and so hearty was his reception by Boleslaw that the Emperor, in order to show him his gratitude, raised him to the dignity of King, and presented him on this occasion with the lance of St. Maurice, which precious relic is still sacredly guarded in the cathedral of Cracow.

The ancient chroniclers (in particular, Galus) describe, in a most graphic manner, the magnificent military manœuvres prepared by Boleslaw for his imperial visitor and the gorgeous array of nobles and their ladies, the splendour of which surprised the Emperor, for, says the chronicle, "gold was held as common at the time as silver, whilst the latter metal was as common as straw."

Prior to the departure of the Emperor he affianced his niece, Rixea, to Miczislav, the son of the King, and he was highly pleased to have found, as he believed, in this powerful prince, both a friend and a vassal of the German Empire.

He returned to Germany with a precious token, the arm of St. Adalbert, the patron saint of Poland, the gift of Boleslaw to the Emperor.

With the assumption of his new title Boleslaw became involved in a series of wars in Silesia. The Bohemians, jealous at his increased power, tried to make themselves masters of Silesia, but Boleslaw repulsed them with great loss from that country, whereupon he invaded Bohemia itself, captured the capital, and took the King and his eldest son prisoners, placing on the ducal throne Ulrich, the second son of the defeated Duke.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

This success of Boleslaw greatly alarmed the German princes, and fearing that they might find in him in the future a formidable rival, they resolved to form a confederacy against him in order to drive him out of Bohemia. In the first instance they succeeded in doing so, dethroned Ulrich, and placed the rightful heir upon the throne. Boleslaw, however, returned to Bohemia with a large force, and in the end the Emperor Henry II., who was now upon the German throne, was compelled to recognise Ulrich, the nominee of Boleslaw, in the ducal dignity of Bohemia.

But this is not the only time that Boleslaw came into collision with the Germans ; indeed, it was only the commencement of a series of wars which brought him fame and lustre, and he soon became known as one of the greatest kings of the time. In the many expeditions which he made against Germany and the various Wendish tribes, he penetrated as far as Holstein, conquering country after country, including Saxony, and filling all Germany with the greatest consternation.

But what made him most famous were his wars with Russia. After the death of Vladimir the Great, the empire, by the expressed desire of the deceased monarch, was to be divided amongst his five sons. The eldest son of Vladimir, however, Svíatopolk, who was a son-in-law of Boleslaw, objected to this arrangement and endeavoured to make the country obey one master with himself as Duke. The other brothers resented this, and having been expelled from the country he went to his father-in-law in



PRINCE ALEXANDER OF WURTEMBERG

(GRANDFATHER OF HER MAJESTY)

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BOLESŁAW I.

Poland, imploring his assistance. Boleslaw thereupon invaded Russia and marched against Yaroslav, who seized the Principality of Tver, which by rights belonged to his brother Svíatopolk. The two opposing forces met on the banks of the river Bug. Finding no other means of crossing, Boleslaw plunged into the water with a number of his followers and attacked the powerful army of the enemy on the opposite bank, defeating and pursuing them to the walls of Kiev, which he immediately captured. Striking the Golden Gate, he took possession of it in the name of Svíatopolk, whom he restored to his former dignity, and leaving a Polish garrison behind to protect his son-in-law, Boleslaw departed for Poland.

Svíatopolk, on his part, however, proved ungrateful, for as soon as Boleslaw had departed, in order to rid himself of the Poles, he arranged a plan to massacre them all at a given signal. The plan, however, was divulged, and the Poles, who were naturally greatly incensed at this intended outrage, retaliated, nearly destroyed the city, and then departed on their way homewards towards Poland.

Having been pursued by an immense Russian army, Boleslaw started at the head of his troops for the relief of his soldiers, and again the two opposing forces met on the banks of the River Bug, when Boleslaw almost entirely annihilated his Russian adversaries.

This, however, did not end his wars with Russia. Yaroslav, after the departure of the Polish troops from Kiev, was not content to make himself the

THE HOUSE OF TECK

master of the city, but he was also anxious to add to his dominions some Polish provinces which had previously belonged to Russia. Boleslaw, however, was prompt in meeting his formidable adversary, and at the approach of his large army on the banks of the Bug, the Russians became panic-stricken, and Yaroslav was compelled to acknowledge Boleslaw's supremacy over his country.

Boleslaw behaved with great generosity to his opponent on this occasion, and restoring the Russian prisoners, he contented himself by merely leaving a garrison in the more important places, so as to uphold his authority, and returned to his capital.

This proved his last war, for not long afterwards, in the year 1025, this great monarch died, greatly mourned by his people, for in him they lost their greatest sovereign, the father of their country, one who was just, wise, and kind, one who, whilst honouring those of his subjects who served the true interest of their country, could be severe against those not inspired with these qualities.

In his government he associated himself with twelve of the wisest men of his kingdom, and with their aid he impartially administered justice, and remedied the wrongs of his subjects. He also travelled through the various parts of his kingdom so as to inquire into the different methods of local administration, in order to remedy the just grievances of his subjects.

Prior to his death Boleslaw convened an Assembly at Gresen, when his son Miczislav was appointed his

KING ABA'S DESCENDANTS

successor. Miczislav became the father of King Casimir I. and father-in-law to Béla (afterwards King of Hungary), who, whilst an exile in Poland, distinguished himself by vanquishing the Prince of Pomerania, a vassal of Poland.

With the death of King Aba and the assumption of power by his rival, King Peter, the Aba family were severely persecuted, and many members had to take refuge at the Polish Court. The family, however, soon regained its former position in the councils of the kingdom, and we frequently meet with various members gallantly fighting in the numerous wars in which the Magyars were involved during the reigns of St. Ladislaus (1077–1095) and King Kálmán (1095–1114).

Amongst the members of the family who so distinguished themselves during the period referred to, was a certain Peter, who in 1067 founded the monastery of Zast, and endowed it with twenty-three estates, extending into six counties. In the War of Succession between King Salamon and Prince Géza, he was the main support of the latter, who eventually occupied the throne (1074–1077) as King Géza I.

Another member of the Aba family, also called Peter, probably a son of the former, took Holy Orders and became Prince Abbot of the famous Abbey of Pannonhalma, where, in the year 1096, he entertained Godfrey of Bouillon, together with his wife and brother Baldwin and a host of Crusaders on their passage through Hungary to the Holy Land.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

In the early part of the twelfth century, the family divided into many branches and assumed different names from their possessions, and founded amongst others the illustrious Houses of Rhédey, Báthori, Bethlen, and Apaffy, all of whom were destined to play important parts in the history of Hungary and Transylvania, and prove themselves the champions of freedom and liberty, and the defenders of the Protestant faith.

These different sections not only founded dynasties of their own in Transylvania, but also provided rulers for the kingdom of Poland.

It would be impossible here to enumerate the heroic deeds and the important parts played by these great families in the history of Hungary and Transylvania, as well as that of Poland, all of which are immortalised in the history and legendary lore of these countries.

As the most direct descendants of the House of Aba, and the ancestors of Her Majesty, Queen Mary, on the paternal side, the Rhédey family claim first our attention, but in dealing with the subject and a family whose ancestors have been so closely identified with the freedom and liberty of their country, a short sketch of the history of Hungary must be given before proceeding with our account.



HIS HIGHNESS THE LATE DUKE OF TECK

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CHAPTER III

HUNGARY UNDER THE ARPÁD KINGS

After the death of King Aba and the ultimate defeat of Peter, the country was the scene of perpetual strife between King Andrew I. and Béla I. and their successors, order having been only finally restored during the rule of Ladislaus I., styled St. Ladislaus (1077-1095), who proved to be one of Hungary's greatest monarchs. He extended the country beyond its former limits and conquered Croatia (1901). St. Ladislaus was also a pattern of Hungarian chivalry.

His nephew, King Kálmán (1095-1114), known as the "Book King" owing to his great learning, introduced many useful laws and reforms. He also took Dalmatia from the then mighty Venetian Republic (1105) and annexed it to Hungary.

Béla II. (1131-1141) deserves mention, if only for the fact that at the time of the great struggle of Welf and Guelph against Conrad III., Béla sided with Welf, who owed, to some extent, his defeat by the sudden death of Béla in 1141.

Géza II. (1141-1161) also championed the cause of the Guelphs, and in 1146 defeated in battle Leopold of Austria of the Hohenstaufen dynasty.

Andrew II. (1205-1235) is known to history as one of the leaders of the Crusade, and who, upon his return, granted in the year 1222 the "Golden Bull,"

THE HOUSE OF TECK

a charter similar to the English Magna Charta which King John had granted eight years previously. His wife, Gertrude of Meran, was a Hohenstaufen princess, and his daughter, Elisabeth, married Louis, Landgrave of Thuringia, and became known to history as the famous St. Elisabeth of Hungary.

THE TARTAR INVASION

His son, Béla IV. (1235–70), who succeeded him, had to face an invasion of the Tartars (1241–42), who, with an army of over one million, invaded and laid waste the capital.

Béla IV. had also to fight the Austrians and Styrians. He defeated and killed Duke Frederick, the last member of the House of Babenberg (1246), who then ruled over Austria. He was also engaged in numerous wars with Bosnia, Dalmatia, and Bulgaria.

His successor, Stephen V. (1270–1272), who became connected by his daughter's marriage with the House of Anjou, and his grandson, Ladislaus IV. (1272–1290), owing to family disputes were constantly engaged in wars against their kinsman, Ottokar II., King of Bohemia. Ladislaus IV. concluded an alliance with Rudolph of Habsburg, King of Germany, in 1275, against Ottokar II., who was defeated by the Hungarians and killed on the battlefield (1278), when his territories were annexed by Rudolph of Habsburg. With the death of Andrew III. (1301), the successor of Ladislaus IV., the dynasty of the House of Árpád, which had ruled Hungary for over 400 years, became extinct.



Mary Adelaide 1894

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS MARY ADELAIDE,
THE LATE DUCHESS OF TECK

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THE HOUSE OF ANJOU

CHARLES ROBERT—LOUIS THE GREAT

After the extinction of the male line of the House of Árpád, various pretenders belonging to the female line put in their claim and usurped the throne for a time, but finally, in the year 1308, the crown was offered to, and accepted by, Charles Robert of Anjou, of the Neapolitan branch, who, on his mother's side, was a grandson of Stephen V. of Hungary.

Charles Robert (1308–42) proved an excellent ruler. He invited some of the great Neapolitan nobles and high clergy to settle in Hungary, and remodelled the state after the Italian fashion, introducing also the arts and culture of that country into Hungary. He married a Polish princess, sister of Casimir III., the Great, the last male descendant of the great House of Piast, with which illustrious dynasty Her Majesty Queen Mary's ancestors, as we have previously stated, were closely related.

Charles Robert was succeeded by his son Louis (1342–82), styled Louis the Great. He organised an expedition to Naples in order to avenge the death of his brother Andrew, who was murdered at the instigation of his wife, Queen Johanna of Naples. He captured the city and punished the murderers of his brother and returned to Hungary.

The reign of Louis the Great, which lasted for forty years, was a most brilliant one in Hungary. He recaptured Dalmatia from the Venetians, conquered Moldavia, Bulgaria, Servia, and Bosnia, and the Wallachians had to submit to the supremacy of Hungary.

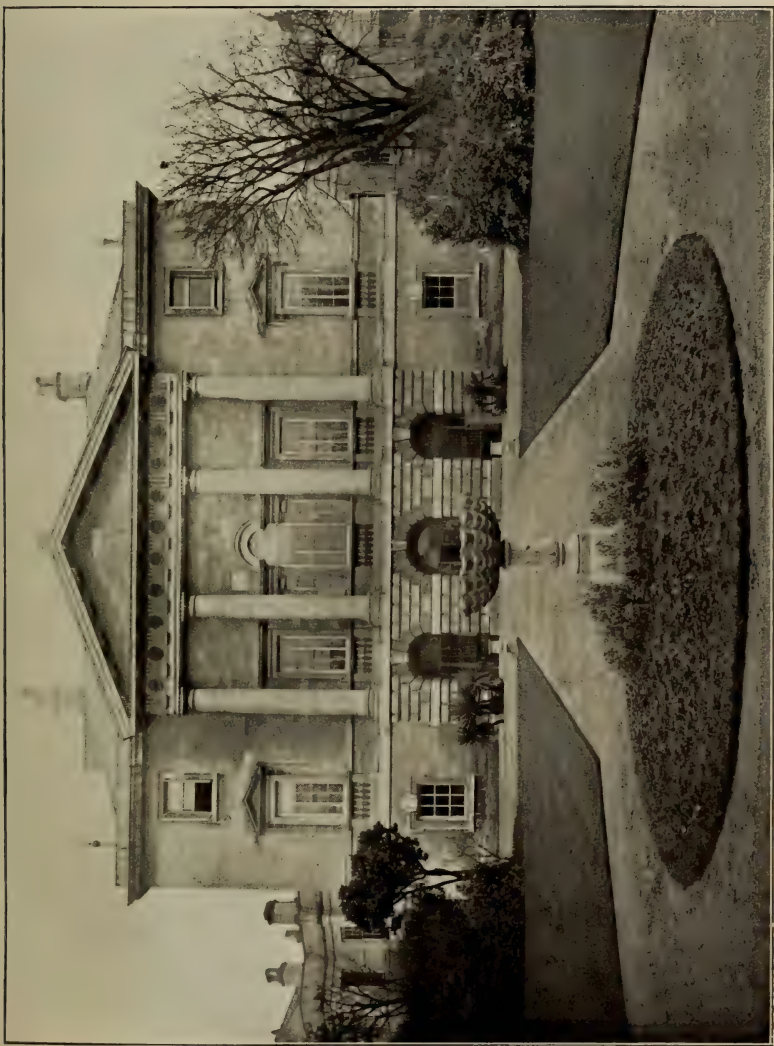
THE HOUSE OF TECK

On the death of Casimir III. in the year 1370, Louis, as the nearest male descendant of the House of Piast, was elected King of Poland, and the kingdoms of Hungary and Poland were thus united. Louis also had no sons, and therefore at his death in 1382 he was succeeded in the kingdom of Hungary by his daughter Maria (1382-95), who was married to Sigismond, the son of the Emperor Charles IV., whilst the throne of Poland, Louis secured to his second daughter, Hedwiga, by her marriage with Uladislaus Jagiello, Duke of Lithuania, the founder of the illustrious dynasty of the Jagiellos in Poland, which lasted until 1572.

WAR BETWEEN THE KINGS OF HUNGARY AND POLAND

The powerful state established by Louis the Great was exposed immediately after his death to internal troubles and disorders. Upon the marriage of Queen Maria to Sigismond she desired her husband to become joint ruler with her, which, after a great opposition, was agreed to. Upon the death of Queen Maria, Sigismond, who, in the meantime, succeeded his father as Roman Emperor (1411), and was elected King of Poland (1419), managed to secure his election as sole King of Hungary. Uladislaus Jagiello, now King of Poland, objected to this, and invaded Hungary at the head of a large army, claiming the crown on behalf of his wife, Queen Hedwiga, but ultimately he withdrew before the army of King Sigismond.

In the meantime the Turks assumed a most



WHITE LODGE

HUNYADY THE HERO

menacing attitude in the Balkans, and Sigismond's forces, though at first victorious, were ultimately defeated at Nikopoli (Bulgaria). This led to a rebellion, and Sigismond was deprived of his liberty, but in the course of time was set free again. After a long and inglorious reign he died in the year 1437, being succeeded by his son-in-law, Albert II., Duke of Austria, as King of Hungary and also of Germany and Bohemia. Albert died after two years' reign, whereupon Uladislaus I., King of Poland, the son of the founder of the Jagiello dynasty, invaded the country, and claimed it as the inheritance of his mother, Hedwiga. He found many partisans in the country, where it was feared that the connection with the Habsburg dynasty might ultimately lead to the absorption of the kingdom by that mighty house, and Uladislaus I. was duly elected King of Hungary. The widowed Queen, taking with her the crown and her newly-born child, Ladislaus Posthumus, fled the country, taking refuge with her kinsman, the Emperor Frederick III., to whom she pledged the Hungarian crown.

HUNGARY THREATENED BY TURKISH INVASION

Whilst this was going on, the attitude of the Turks became most menacing. Fortunately for Hungary a great star appeared suddenly on the horizon in the person of John Hunyady, who proved to be the greatest hero of the Middle Ages. Hunyady formed a small army of horsemen at his own expense and boldly faced the enormous force of Turkish troops.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

He defeated and humiliated three successive Sultans, pursuing them through Wallachian, Servian, and Bulgarian territories, and spreading terror among them. In the twelve glorious battles which he fought, two only were lost, one being the battle of Varna (1444), where King Ladislaus made a false move and lost his life. Hunyady was then chosen Captain-General, pending the coming-of-age of the young King Ladislaus, and successfully held the Turks at bay. The last battle that he fought was the glorious victory of Belgrade, in commemoration of which a papal Bull was issued, ordaining the tolling of the church bells at noon for all time to come throughout the length and breadth of Christendom. His death, which took place a few weeks later, in the year 1456, was mourned by the whole of Europe.

KING MATTHIAS (1458-90)

The reign of Ladislaus was only of short duration, and after his death Matthias, the son of John Hunyady, was elected King of Hungary, and proved to be the wisest and most just of Hungarian rulers. He took Serbia and Bosnia under his protection, and organised the first Huszár regiment, which became a pattern for the whole world. Matthias expelled the Turks from the frontier towns and pursued them into Serbia and Bosnia, and Sultan Bajazet had to conclude peace with him for eight years. Matthias then directed his troops against the Emperor Frederick III., who would not give up the crown of Hungary, which Albert's widow



HIS HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF TECK, G.C.B., G.C.V.O.
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THE HOUSE OF HABSBURG

pledged with him, and also adopted a hostile attitude towards the Hungarians whilst they were engaged in war with the Turks. Matthias defeated the Emperor Frederick, captured Vienna, which he made his capital, and drove the Emperor out of his Austrian dominions, of which he only regained possession after the death of King Matthias.

DEFEAT OF THE HUNGARIANS AT MOHÁCS (1526)

Matthias died in 1490, and was succeeded by Uladislaus of Bohemia, of the House of Jagiellos. Under this monarch and his son Louis II. the power of Hungary rapidly declined, and the Turks invaded the country again with 200,000 men under Suleiman. At the battle of Mohács, in 1526, the Hungarians were totally defeated, and King Louis II., whilst retreating from the battle-field, was thrown from his horse and perished in the swampy marshes which surrounded the battle-field. The Turks followed up their victory and devastated the country all along the Danube right up to Buda, after which they withdrew with large spoils.

THE RIVAL KINGS

The Hungarian throne having become vacant after the disastrous defeat at Mohács, a large number of the Hungarian magnates elected John Szapolyai, a Hungarian noble and Waiwode of Transylvania, as King; others, however, sided with Queen Maria (widow of King Louis), who advocated the cause of her brother, the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria,

THE HOUSE OF TECK

who was married to Anna of Hungary, sister of the late King Louis II.

Ferdinand was duly elected at the National Assembly held at Pozsony (Pressburg), and was subsequently crowned in accordance with the Hungarian Constitutional Laws at Székesfehérvár, where the Kings of Hungary, from the days of St. Stephen, were wont to be crowned.

DIVISION OF HUNGARY

Ferdinand (1526–64), on the death of Louis II., became also King of Bohemia, and with it became possessed of Moravia, and also succeeded in the year 1556 his brother Emperor Charles V. in the imperial dignity. The election, as King, of the Archduke Ferdinand, caused internal troubles, the Sultan supporting the cause of John Szapolyai, invading Hungary in 1529 with a large army, capturing Buda, and pursuing Ferdinand's forces as far as Vienna. In the year 1538 it was agreed by a special treaty at Nagy Várád that the country should be divided among the two contesting rulers, both bearing the title of king, and at the death of Szapolyai the whole should revert to Archduke Ferdinand or his heirs. Transylvania was made independent and was to be ruled by John Szapolyai, and after his death by his successors. This brought peace to the country for some time, but on the death of Szapolyai in 1540, the people in Lower Hungary declared in favour of his infant son, Sigismund, in which claim he was supported by the Sultan, who again invaded



HER HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF TECK
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Photo by T. Weston and Son

NATIONAL HEROES

the country and held a large portion of it in trust for Sigismund. Maximilian, who succeeded his father, the Emperor Ferdinand, in 1564, found his rights contested by Sigismund, and it was only after a treaty in 1570 between the two rival kings and the death of Sigismund in 1571 that the Emperor Maximilian became the acknowledged ruler of the entire country except Transylvania, which was recognised as an independent principality, and where Stephen Báthory was elected Prince. From that period the Sovereigns of Hungary were identical with those of Austria and the other dominions of the House of Habsburg. *Hungary, however, in electing the Habsburg dynasty as its rulers had never lost its right of being a constitutional country, and was, and is now, ruled in accordance with its own laws, regardless of the other dominions of its King.*

STRUGGLE WITH THE TURKS

In electing the Habsburg dynasty to the throne of Hungary, the Hungarians naturally had hoped that this mighty House would be able to expel the Turks from the country, but in this respect they were bitterly disappointed, and for a period of over 160 years the bulk of the nation was constantly engaged with the Turks in the defence of their country. During this time the Hungarians performed heroic deeds of bravery worthy of Hellas and Sparta. At Kőszeg (1532) Miklós Jurisics, with only 700 men, principally peasants from the district, barred the progress of Sultan Suleiman on

THE HOUSE OF TECK

his way to Vienna with an army of 200,000 men. With a small force of 2,000 men, Losonczy (whose wife sold her jewels in order to furnish the means) defended for a long time Temesvár (1552) against 50,000 assailants. At Drégely in the same year George Szondy, with a handful of men, resisted for a long time the numerous forces of the Turks, and seeing that no further resistance was possible, rather than surrender he made preparation for his funeral on the capture of the fort. At Eger, Stephen Dobó (1552) with 2,000 men, consisting chiefly of peasants aided by patriotic women, defeated a Turkish force of 100,000 men. The very name of Szigetvár sends a thrill of patriotism through the heart of every true Hungarian, for here in 1566 the great hero Miklós Zrinyi held out most heroically with a small body of 25,000 men against a mighty force of 90,000 of Suleiman's men. Fighting desperately till his number was reduced to 300 men, and seeing there was no chance of further resistance, he and his comrades arrayed themselves in holiday attire and, with drawn swords, opened the gates and then blew up the fort, preferring to die in this way rather than surrender. For over a century and a half the Hungarians immortalised themselves in the numerous battles fought against the Turks, and hero upon hero followed each other with lightning rapidity.

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTIONS

But, sad to say, not only did the Hungarians have to fight the Turks, but they had on repeated



PRINCE GEORGE OF TECK

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Photo, Hill and Saunders, Eton

THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR

occasions to defend their country against their own kings, who in Hungary, as in Germany, persecuted the Protestants, and deprived the country of its constitutional rights. This was especially the case during the reign of Rudolph I. (1576–1608), and in this movement the Hungarians were led by Stephen Bocskay. The latter defeated Rudolph's forces, which led to the conclusion of peace in 1606, whereby the liberties of the Protestants were guaranteed.

The persecutions, however, were renewed during the reign of Ferdinand II. (1619–37), the hero of the Thirty Years' War. A champion was then found in Gábor (Gabriel) Bethlen, Prince of Transylvania, who attacked the King's forces, and obliged him to conclude a treaty of peace first in 1622, and again in 1626, whereby the privileges of the Protestants were absolutely guaranteed.

During the reign of Ferdinand III. (1637–57) these persecutions were again renewed, and this time György (George) Rákóczy I., Prince of Transylvania, came to the rescue of his Hungarian brethren. He attacked Ferdinand's forces and gained several victories (1644). George Rákóczy made an alliance with the King of Sweden against Ferdinand, in consequence of which the Emperor was forced to conclude a treaty of peace (1645 and 1647).

The persecutions of the Protestants continued again, and even with greater violence, during the reign of Leopold I. (1657–1705), who also curtailed the privileges of the Hungarian nation and treated the country as a mere province, all matters being

THE HOUSE OF TECK

decided in Vienna. In consequence of this a plan was initiated by Ferencz Wesselényi, late Palatine, for the dethronement of the Habsburg dynasty.

Wesselényi was suddenly taken ill, and he died before the execution of the plan. The conspiracy, however, was divulged after his death, and the ringleaders of the plot, which included amongst others Peter Zrinyi, Count Frangepan, Palatin Nádasdi, and Ferencz Rákóczy I., were, with the exception of the last named, executed.

Fearful persecutions followed, which led to a second revolt under Imre Thököli. He obtained possession of the greater part of Hungary, and concluded an alliance with the Sultan, who nominated him King of Hungary, and sent a large army of 150,000 men to bombard Vienna. For seven weeks (1683) the city was besieged, and at one time its surrender seemed to be a question of hours only, when suddenly John Szobieszky, King of Poland, came to the rescue of Prince Charles of Lorraine, who conducted the defence of the city, and drove the Turks from the gates of Vienna, obliging them to take flight back to Buda.

Thököli, in the meantime, aided by his wife, the great heroine known to history as Ilona Zrinyi, took possession of the best part of the country. Finding himself, however, in the end, deserted by his followers, who considered it was an opportune moment to expel the Turks from Hungary, and his wife having been captured and taken as a prisoner to Vienna, he left the country and took refuge in



THE CHILDREN OF THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF TECK
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From a Photo by Speaight

RECAPTURE OF BUDA

Turkey, awaiting there a favourable opportunity when he could release his wife from prison and reconquer the country from the Germans.

The country now being freed from internal trouble, the Hungarians hastened to join the King's flag, and attacked the Turks at Buda. After nine weeks' struggle the Turks surrendered Buda, and for the first time for 145 years the Hungarian flag was hoisted over the historic castle of Buda (1686).

Prince Charles pursued the enemy into the interior of the country, and at Mohács, the place where 161 years before the Turks destroyed the Hungarian army, they were thoroughly defeated by the Hungarians. The Turks were pursued and attacked at Belgrade, Bosnia was retaken, and gradually the greater part of Serbia was reconquered. The Christian armies were everywhere victorious till 1690.

ANNEXATION OF TRANSYLVANIA TO HUNGARY

Later the Turks assisted Thököli again in his revolt, but they were defeated, and Thököli had to take refuge in Turkey. This victory led to the re-annexation of Transylvania to the Crown of Hungary. Hardly, however, had the Turks left the country, when the Hungarians were subjected to most cruel treatment; hundreds of the best-known Hungarians were arrested on the slightest possible pretence or suspicion for conspiracy against the Crown, and were summarily executed.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

REVOLUTION HEADED BY FRANCIS RÁKÓCZY II.

This cruel treatment led to another rising, of which Francis Rákóczy II. (son of Ilona Zrinyi, the heroine, and stepson of Thököli) was the leader, who spread the revolt throughout the country, taking one fort after another, and even bombarding Vienna. Rákóczy occupied the whole of Upper Transylvania right to Transylvania, of which principality he was chosen Prince. The Emperor Leopold, alarmed at the success of Rákóczy, sued for peace, but nothing came of it, and when he died (1705) the country was in open revolt.

JOSEPH I. (1705-11)

The Emperor Joseph I., upon his accession to the throne, offered to re-establish the Hungarian Constitutional Laws and to respect the Protestant faith, and sought the intervention of the British Ambassador to approach Rákóczy for the conclusion of peace. By the treaty of Szatmár (1711) the constitutional rights of Hungary and freedom to Protestants were guaranteed, and an amnesty proclaimed also to all political offenders. Rákóczy, who did not care to accept the amnesty for himself, left Hungary for ever, accompanied by a few of his faithful adherents, going first to Poland, then to the Court of Louis XIV. of France, and finally settled in Turkey, where he died at Rodosto. Since that period down to the third decade of the last century, which ultimately



HIS SERENE HIGHNESS PRINCE ALEXANDER OF TECK
PUBLISHED BY SPECIAL PERMISSION OF HIS SERENE HIGHNESS

Photo by W. and D. Downey

MARIA THERESIA

led to the War of Independence in 1848, as we shall see, no movement took place for the separation of Hungary from the other dominions of the House of Habsburg.

THE PRAGMATIC SANCTION

In the reign of Charles III. (1711–1740), who had no male descendants, the Pragmatic Sanction was introduced, decreeing the hereditary rights of the female descendants to the throne. The Pragmatic Sanction also guaranteed to Hungary the right to be ruled in accordance with its own Constitution, regardless of the other states of the Habsburg dynasty.

THE HUNGARIANS COME TO THE RESCUE OF MARIA THERESIA

Maria Theresia (1740–1780) succeeded to the throne and became ruler of the German Empire, Hungary, the German Netherlands, Tuscany and Lombardy. Her rights, however, were disputed by the Elector of Bavaria and the Kings of Prussia, Spain, France and Sardinia, and Poland, who invaded all her dominions except Hungary. The young Queen retired to the ancient Hungarian capital, Pozsony (Pressburg), and here she convened the National Assembly, and holding her recently born child in her arms, pleaded for the chivalrous protection of the Hungarians. The Magyars, moved by the sad situation of the Queen, forgot all the

THE HOUSE OF TECK

injustice done to them in the past, and the members of the Assembly, with drawn swords in their hands, uttered the historic exclamation, "*Vitam et sanguinem pro rege nostro Maria Theresia!*" ("We live and die for our king"). (She was considered as a king in accordance with Hungarian laws.) Very soon a strong Hungarian army faced the united French and Bavarian forces, driving them out from Bohemia and Bavaria and pursuing them across the Rhine as far as Alsace. Another detachment attacked Frederick the Great, defeating him in Bohemia, after which the Hungarian troops advanced into Prussia and occupied Berlin, and the Queen's enemies had to sue for peace.

Maria Theresia, grateful to the Hungarians, improved the condition of the peasantry and devoted herself to the welfare of the country.

Joseph II. (1780-90) was also favourably disposed towards the Hungarians. He emancipated the peasantry, who till then were regarded as serfs, established many schools, and encouraged the arts and industries of the country, but having refused to be crowned King of Hungary, and also acted without consulting Parliament, he was not popular with the people. Before his death, however, he re-established Hungarian rights, and sent the crown of St. Stephen from Vienna to Buda.

During the short reign of his son, Leopold II. (1790-92), the Hungarians gained the upper hand, and re-established their constitutional rights in the memorable Diet of 1790-91.



HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ALEXANDER OF TECK
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Photo by Rita Martin

NAPOLEON AND THE HUNGARIANS

EMPEROR FRANCIS I.

Francis I. (1792–1835) sat on the throne at the time when the French revolutionary spirit spread all over Europe, including Hungary. Then came the Napoleonic period, and the Austrians lost their Italian possessions, together with Istria, Dalmatia, Tyrol, and were engaged in a series of wars with Napoleon so well known to the student of history of that epoch. Napoleon I. issued a manifesto to the Hungarians, inviting them to declare themselves independent and elect a king of their own, but the Hungarians remained loyal to the Habsburg dynasty. At the conclusion of peace, however, the Austrians proved to be ungrateful to the Hungarians, and persuaded the Emperor Francis for the curtailment of the privileges of the Hungarian nation. All matters had to be decided at Vienna. The schools were in decadence and the Hungarian language was not taught; all books had to be submitted to the Austrian censor, and the Hungarian Parliament had not been summoned for fourteen years.

Ferdinand V. (1835–1848), who succeeded Francis I., introduced many reforms, founded many schools, and made the Hungarian language the official language of the country, but the nation demanded the re-establishment of constitutional freedom and equality of all classes. In their demands the nation was first led by Baron Wesselényi, and later by Louis Kossuth, who, with his masterful

THE HOUSE OF TECK

oratory, won to his cause the entire country, and all classes demanded constitutional freedom. The Emperor Ferdinand saw no alternative but to accede to these demands, and appointed a responsible Hungarian Ministry. The Viennese, however, continually plotted against Hungary, and incited the ban of Croatia and also the Serbs in the Bánat to revolt against Hungary. As a result, the Hungarian Parliament was summoned, and voted 200,000 soldiers for the national defences. In the meantime the Imperial troops having now returned from Italy, the King was induced to revoke his previous concessions, which led to a general rising.

FRANCIS JOSEPH I., APOSTOLIC KING OF HUNGARY

A revolution broke out in Vienna, and the Emperor Ferdinand had to abdicate in favour of Francis Joseph I. As soon as order was restored in Vienna, the Austrians poured into Hungary with large forces under Prince Windischgrätz, who occupied Buda. The Hungarian Government retired to Debreczen in the lowlands, and organised large forces for the defence of the country, with which they attacked the Austrian troops, who were defeated on all sides and expelled from Hungary. A National Assembly was then convened at Debreczen, where the independence of the country was proclaimed.

The Austrians now appealed for help to Russia, who invaded Hungary with large forces, and though at first they were beaten, ultimately, after several months of desperate fighting, the Hungarians sur-



THE CHILDREN OF PRINCE AND PRINCESS ALEXANDER OF TECK
PUBLISHED BY KIND PERMISSION OF HIS SERENE HIGHNESS PRINCE ALEXANDER OF TECK

HUNGARY'S REVERED KING

rendered to them at Világos, which ended the War of Independence.

Cruel and hard days followed ; the country was treated like a province, and a state of siege existed from 1848 to 1859, the Hungarian language having been abolished from all schools and Government offices.

In 1867, after the conclusion of the Austro-Prussian War, a reconciliation took place between the King and the Hungarians, by the intervention of the famous Hungarian statesman, Francis Deák, and a compact was made with His Majesty Francis Joseph I., by which *the Hungarian Constitution was restored and perfect freedom and independence guaranteed to Hungary as to the administration of its national affairs by its own Legislature in accordance with the Hungarian Constitutional Laws and regardless of the interests of Austria.* At the same time a treaty was concluded between Austria and Hungary, whereby the army and foreign affairs of both halves of the Dual Monarchy are to be administered conjointly.

On June 8th, 1867, His Majesty Francis Joseph I., accompanied by his queen, entered the Hungarian capital, Budapest, and they were crowned King and Queen of Hungary.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

CHAPTER IV

THE HOUSE OF RHÉDEY

We shall now proceed with our sketch of the Rhédey family. In accordance with genealogists and the family records, it would appear that it was a certain Czabanka, who lived in the year 1199, who was the first to assume the name of Rhédey de Szent Márton, after his possessions in the villages of Nagy and Kis Réde and Szent Márton (St. Martin).

This Czabanka had two sons—János I. and Peter I. The former seems to have distinguished himself in the reign of Andreas II.

A near kinsman of Czabanka, called Aba Demeter, took a leading part in the war against King Miczislav II. of Poland, and afterwards accompanied Andrew II., the leader of the Crusaders, to the Holy Land.

Another member of the family was a Waiwode, or ruling prince, of Transylvania, and both he and his son, styled Aba Abolbad, rendered great services to the country, the former in the reign of Andrew, and the latter during the reign of Béla IV. (1235–1270), to whom he acted as *homo regis*, or King's Plenipotentiary, at the time of the Tartar invasion.

With the extinction of the male branch of the Árpád dynasty by the death of Andreas III. (1301), and the accession to the throne of Charles Robert of Anjou (1308–1342), the Rhédey family came again



H.S.H. THE LATE PRINCE FRANCIS OF TECK

PUBLISHED BY KIND PERMISSION OF HIS SERENE HIGHNESS PRINCE
ALEXANDER OF TECK

From a photo by W. S. Stuart

THE HOUSE OF RHÉDEY

into prominence, and we see them taking a leading part in the reorganisation of Hungary, which, under the rule of the illustrious House of Anjou, was destined to become one of the most cultured and prosperous states in Europe. Both Peter Rhédey II. and Demeter Rhédey did a great deal towards the development of the country and received several charters from the King and his successor, Louis the Great of Hungary (1342–1382).

During the joint reign of Maria, daughter of Louis the Great of Hungary, and her husband, the Emperor Sigismund (1382–1437), the Rhédey family were specially to the fore, and in the year 1397 we find Jakob Rhédey I. acting as *homo regis*, or Royal Plenipotentiary, during the absence from Hungary of King Sigismund.

Peter Rhédey III. (son of Jakob Rhédey) was one of those Hungarian nobles, who, in 1442, conducted the peace negotiations between Uladislaus, King of Poland, and Elizabeth, Queen of Hungary (1439–42), widow of Albert II., in their dispute over the possession of the Hungarian crown.

When King Matthias ascended the Hungarian throne (1458–90), several vast estates were given to Dósa Miklós Rhédey for his services to the country.

János III. (1437–85), son of Dósa Miklós VI., became a special favourite of King Matthias. In 1470 he was nominated to the post of Waiwode of Transylvania, a very high position in those days, as the holder of the office had to keep a vigilant eye on the Turks who were menacing the country, which they ultimately invaded.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

With the occupation of Buda by the Sultan's troops (1541), the Turks practically became the masters of that vast and fertile part of Hungary situated between the Danube and Tisza, known as the Lowlands of Hungary, the owners of which had to lay down the plough in order to defend their homes against the Turkish hordes. Then came the religious persecutions commenced by the Habsburg dynasty, and the Magyars had to raise the standard of rebellion against their own kings for the protection of their religious freedom and national rights. During that period Hungary produced many heroes, the like of which can only be found in the Trojan and Spartan wars, and in these, many of the members of the Rhédey family came in for a place of honour.

There, in the vicinity of their ancient home, was situated the important fort of Eger, against which the Turks led so many fierce attacks and onslaughts, as Eger, owing to its strong position, not only proved a secure place of refuge to the peasantry of Lower Hungary against the constant attacks of the Turks, but owing to its strategic position was also the key to Upper Hungary. Here at Eger we find several members of the Rhédey family distinguishing themselves. These include the brothers Ferencz I. and Pál IV. The last-named earned for himself the surname of "Miles Agriensis" for his great military valour.

It fell, however, to the honour of Ferencz II., son of Pál IV., to lay the foundation of the glory and grandeur of his house, and to establish his name in the history of his country. With him also the



THE ARMS OF THE HOUSE OF RHÉDEY

THE HOUSE OF RHÉDEY

family history is transplanted from the soil of Hungary to that of Transylvania, where his kinsmen, despising the Turkish rule and the oppressions of the German Emperors in Hungary, established for themselves a new home, and there they became the champions of freedom and liberty, and when opportunity presented itself came to the rescue of their oppressed Hungarian brethren.

FERENCZ RHÉDEY II.

This noble scion of the Rhédey family was born in 1556, and he, like his father and uncles, was initiated early in the art of warfare. It was at Eger that he gained his first laurels, and there also that he was inspired to devote his whole life to the sacred cause of his fatherland and to the freedom of religion.

In the year 1590, at the age of thirty, he was appointed by the Emperor Rudolph (1576–1608) to the important command of the fort of Fülek, where he fought so many glorious battles. Some years afterwards, however, he was compelled to relinquish his command, having been accused of maintaining freebooters, who terrorised the people in the district, both peasants and nobles alike. He was impeached for his conduct to the Hungarian Diet in the year 1599, was condemned to death and to forfeiture of all his estates and all his titles and ranks (Law XXXVII.—1599).

Ferencz Rhédey, however, managed to elude this punishment by escaping from the country, and taking refuge in Transylvania, he watched for an

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opportunity when he could once more unsheath his sword for the good of his country. The moment seemed to have been favourable to his designs, when in the year 1605 István (Stephen) Bocskay was Prince of Transylvania. He offered him his services, which were promptly accepted, and he was entrusted with a leading command in the expedition about to start for the invasion of Hungary, with a view to expelling the Imperial forces. In recognition of his successful services, Bocskay, in a decree dated Kassa, May 2nd, 1606, raised him to the highest rank of nobility, and granted him several estates.

In the same year Ferencz Rhédey was delegated to go to Vienna to assist in the peace negotiations which were carried on between the Emperor Rudolph II. (1576-1608) and Bocskay, where the Emperor was forced to sign a treaty guaranteeing the rights of Protestants.

At a later period the Emperor Matthias II. (1608-19) conferred upon Ferencz Rhédey the highest military honour, with the title of "Eques Auratus."

In the glorious reign of Gábor Bethlen (1613-29), Ferencz Rhédey, who was closely related to that famous Prince of Transylvania, was destined to play a very important part, and to distinguish himself in the many memorable battles, the outcome of which, as we have seen, was that the Emperor Ferdinand II. (1619-37) (the hero of the Thirty Years' War) was compelled to guarantee the religious rights of the Protestants throughout his vast dominions.



FERENCZ RHÉDEY, PRINCE OF TRANSYLVANIA, †1667

PUBLISHED BY KIND PERMISSION OF H.H. THE DUKE OF TECK

THE HOUSE OF RHÉDEY

Ferencz Rhédey, an ardent Protestant, caused the Helvetian Confession of Faith to be translated into Hungarian, and had it printed at Debreczen in 1616. This was the most authentic version of Calvin's doctrine.

The glorious military career of Ferencz Rhédey II. came to an abrupt end in the year 1621, when he died at the Fort of Füleky, the scene of his earliest struggles and victories.

Ferencz Rhédey, during his lifetime, received enormous grants of lands, and at the time of his death the Rhédey estates spread over several counties.

FERENCZ RHÉDEY III.

Ferencz Rhédey III. was also destined to play a very important part in the history of his country. At an early age he was appointed by György Rákóczy I. (1630-48) to the command of the Fort of Huszt, St. Jobb, and Nagy Várad respectively, and later on became Lord Lieutenant of Máramaros. After the failure of George Rákóczy II.'s expedition to Poland in 1657 (which had for its object the partition of Poland between Sweden and Transylvania) the Sultan insisted upon the removal of György Rákóczy from the throne of Transylvania, and Ferencz Rhédey III. was elected to the princely dignity in his stead.

Rhédey's rule, though of short duration, was a most eventful one. It was just at the time when a crowd of personages followed one another with lightning-like rapidity upon the Transylvanian

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throne. In less than two years five rulers ascended and descended the throne, pushing one another from its tottering eminence. They were famous men, all of whom made themselves a name in history, yet they could not maintain themselves on the throne owing to the intrigues going on between the Sultan and the Emperor to gain the upper hand in the principality. Though Rhédey's election was regarded with favour both by the Sultan and the Emperor, and he was received by all his subjects, yet, as a consequence of his election, trouble arose with György Rákóczy II., the dethroned Prince. Ferencz Rhédey III., in order to save his country from eternal strife, abdicated voluntarily in favour of György Rákóczy II.

Ferencz Rhédey III. married Druzsina Bethlen, niece of Prince Gábor Bethlen, and through his marriage a number of estates belonging to the Bethlen family became the property of Ferencz Rhédey III., and went to increase his already vast possessions.

He was made a noble of the Kingdom of Poland, and the Emperor Leopold (1657–1705) conferred upon him in 1659 the title of "Count."

Rhédey's only son, László IV. (who married Agnes Bánffy, widow of Ákos Barcsay, Prince of Transylvania), distinguished himself in 1657 in the expedition to Poland. He declined the throne of Transylvania offered him by the Sultan. He was a man of culture, and his diary of the political events of his day was published in 1868 by the Hungarian Academy of Science. He died in 1664.

The glorious career of Ferencz Rhédey came to



SWORD AND PISTOL FORMERLY THE PROPERTY
OF PRINCE RHÉDEY

PRESENTED TO HIM BY THE SULTAN OF TURKEY

In the possession of His Highness the Duke of Teck

RHÉDEY RELICS

a sudden end in 1664, when his only son László died. Quite inconsolable, he spent his remaining years in seclusion on his estate at Huszt, finding his only solace in the foundation of many educational and charitable institutions.

A number of interesting relics which belonged to Ferencz Rhédey III. are in the possession of Her Majesty the Queen, and the present Duke of Teck and his brother, Prince Alexander. The articles include a portrait of Ferencz Rhédey and a number of swords and pistols presented to Prince Ferencz Rhédey by the Sultan of Turkey.

ROMANCE OF PEARL EAR-RINGS

A wonderful pair of ear-rings, which belonged to the Princess Rhédey, are now in the possession of Her Majesty the Queen. A curious story is told of these ear-rings, which consist of two enormous pearls. It is said that the Princess doubted the possibility of the stones being real on account of their great size, whereupon the Prince, her husband, drew his sword and, with a sweep of his weapon, cut one of the pearls asunder in his anger at the doubt upon his word, and his desire to prove that the pearl was genuine. To this day the ear-ring bears the trace of his weapon, and the mark is discernible where it was afterwards joined together. These magnificent pearls were sometimes, on occasions of great ceremony, worn by her late Royal Highness, the Duchess of Teck.

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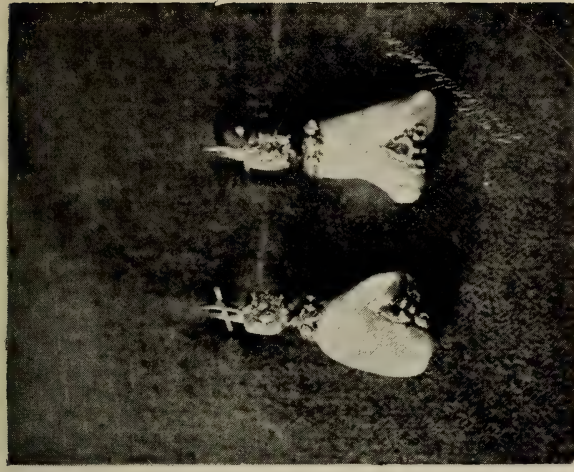
THE SIEGE OF FOUR THOUSAND WOMEN

In connection with Rhédey's election as Prince of Transylvania, an amusing story is told by Maurice Jókai, which runs somewhat as follows:—

There were sad times in Transylvania. George Rákóczy II., an heroic and ambitious ruler, was on the throne, but not content with being a great prince of a small principality, he aspired to the crown of Poland. With this purpose he fitted out an expedition, in spite of the warning of the Grand Vizier that by so doing he would incur the wrath of the Sublime Porte. George Rákóczy was not the sort of man to be intimidated, and he marched into Poland. The result was that the Sultan ordered the Khan of Crimea to invade Poland with his Tartar hordes in order to oppose the Transylvanian forces.

The latter were totally defeated, Rákóczy himself only narrowly escaping, and with a few of his followers by circuitous routes reaching Transylvania. The remnant of his army, commanded by John Kemény (afterwards Prince of Transylvania), had to surrender on the most humiliating terms, many of them being carried away to the Crimea, and treated with the greatest cruelty at the hands of their captors, who demanded very heavy ransom for their release.

Amongst the unfortunate captives was a respected Transylvanian noble, Thomas Domakos by name, the leader of the Szekely contingent. It having come to the ears of the Tartars that Domakos was possessed of great wealth, one of his lieutenants was



PEARL EAR-RINGS, FORMERLY THE
PROPERTY OF COUNTESS CLAUDIA
RHÉDEY, NOW IN THE POSSESSION
OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

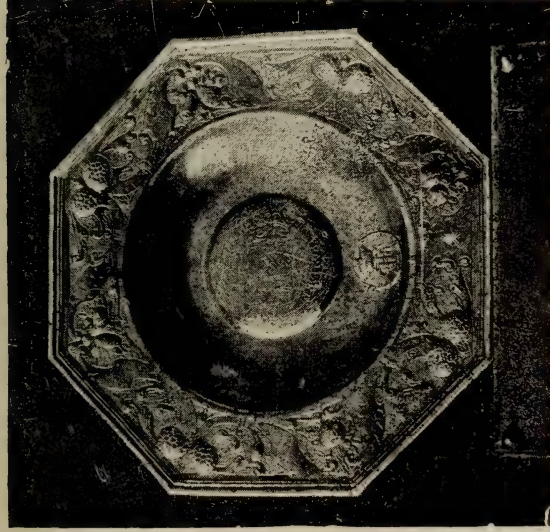


PLATE WHICH FORMERLY BELONGED TO
DÉNES BÁNFFY, WHO LIVED IN THE
SEVENTEENTH CENTURY
IN THE POSSESSION OF H.H. THE DUKE OF TECK

THE SIEGE OF WOMEN

despatched to his wife with a view to obtaining his ransom. The amount, however, demanded was so heavy that his wife, Ilka, had to pledge the famous family jewels, when she at once started to the frontier, where her husband, in charge of a strong Tartar escort, was waiting for her. In those good old days the precipitous mountain passes offered lavish hospitality to those who made brigandage their occupation, and it is little wonder that they should be on the alert when such a considerable sum was being conveyed for the relief of the captives.

Ilka's party was, therefore, attacked and deprived of all their possessions, though the brigands were gallant enough to allow Ilka and her companions to escape back to Transylvania. The Tartar Khan was naturally infuriated at the promised ransom not arriving, and poor Domakos was put into chains and carried back to the Crimea, where he was condemned to perform the meanest labours, and treated with the utmost harshness and cruelty, receiving more lashes than crusts.

In the meantime Ilka, who had reached home, left no stone unturned to negotiate the release of her husband, but all her plans failed, as now the Tartars demanded a tenfold higher ransom than before, a sum too large for her to raise. At last an idea occurred to her as to a way by which she could attain her cherished end by appealing to Prince Rákóczy.

"I will collect around me," she declared, "all the women in Transylvania whose husbands are in captivity, and we shall march to the spot where the

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National Assembly is now being held, force our way into the Diet, and refuse to depart till the members have found the means to release our husbands. If needful we will attack the Prince's palace. It was the Prince who caused our unhappy husbands to be carried away, and it is his duty to secure their release."

She immediately gave orders for her horse to be saddled and, followed by a single attendant, she galloped to Csikszereda, where the weekly market was being held. There she took up a position in front of the church, and ordering her attendant to give a mighty blast from his hunting-horn, she was soon surrounded by an eager crowd, mostly composed of women from the neighbouring towns and villages. With tears in her eyes she reminded those around her of the sad plight of their husbands far away in the Crimea, urging them to do all in their power to secure their release.

Moved by her impressive speech, Ilka's hearers promised one and all to accompany her. "Lead us to the National Assembly and to the Prince!" they cried. The few men in the crowd who endeavoured to dissuade them from their project were shouted down. "We want no man to help us!" and one of the women snatched the hunting-horn from Ilka's male attendant, told him boldly they had no need of him, as she could blow the trumpet with all the skill of the oldest soldier, and at this signal the crowd of women set forth towards Deés, where the National Assembly was then sitting and the Prince in residence. On the way the women of the villages they



TAPESTRY CHAIR AND VASES FROM THE COLLECTION OF
HIS LATE HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF TECK
AT WHITE LODGE

THE SIEGE OF WOMEN

passed joined the army, some on horseback and some in vehicles of every description. Such was the dust that this huge mob raised, that long before they reached Deés, the sentinel in the watch-tower, mistaking them for an approaching army of men, gave the alarm. The Prince, momentarily expecting the Turks to invade his territory, gave instant orders that a detachment of Huszárs be despatched to meet the army. Much to the surprise of the commander, instead of facing Turkish troops, he found the invaders to consist of thousands of women carrying banners draped in black. "We are making for the palace of the Prince," they shouted, "to secure the release of our husbands." The commander immediately galloped back, and informed the Prince that an enormous army was approaching demanding the release of the Transylvanian captives in the Crimea ; he forgot to mention, however, that the crowd consisted only of women. The Prince, alarmed at this report, as Deés was not fortified, and therefore exposed to attack, instantly gave orders for the removal of the Court to Szamosujvár, and in no time the remnant of his troops and his Court, followed by the members of the National Assembly, were on their way to that town, so that when Ilka and her army of women arrived, they found Deés practically deserted.

Undaunted by this mishap, "Never mind," cried Ilka, "we shall yet reach them ; the world is not large enough for them to escape from us !" After a rest in the town, where they were joined by a further number of women from the adjoining neighbourhood, Ilka and her faithful army moved on.

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In the meantime, Rákóczy and his Court had reached Szamosujvár, and had installed themselves in the fortified castle there. In great haste a building was temporarily prepared for the reception of the Diet. It was one of the most memorable Parliaments in the history of the Principality. All the members from far and wide expressed a desire to take part in the deliberations ; the very existence of the country was at stake. On the one hand they had to find the means to release their unhappy countrymen from Tartar captivity, and at the same time oppose a large army of the Turkish Sultan, whose troops were on their way to the Principality.

The members of the Diet were highly incensed at the action of the Prince, who, by his expedition to Poland, had plunged the country into such misery, and it needed all the tact of Francis Rhédey, the President of the Assembly, to keep the members in order. Resolution after resolution was passed, and messenger after messenger was despatched to the Prince to receive his sanction, but, alas, in vain ; he was not to be approached, his surgeons urging that he was suffering from a severe heart seizure, a malady which the writers of the period suggest was one of those chronic indispositions to which the Prince seemed invariably subject at such moment as it did not quite suit him to face the Assembly, and when at times it pleased him to recover from his attack, he would plead that his treasury was empty. The Diet was at its wits' end to know what to do next. From day to day they had to bribe the emissaries of the Sultan with precious gifts so as to dis-

THE SIEGE OF WOMEN

suade them from carrying out their threats of invading the country, and demanding the dismissal of Rákóczy from power. The Prince, however, as has been stated, refused to see the deputations sent him.

It was at this critical moment that Ilka Domakos and her army of women approached the scene.

On this day the chroniclers record a strange phenomenon as appearing in the sky ; the sun was shining in all its brilliance, when suddenly a large halo was perceived round it, and at the same time three smaller, paler suns appeared in the vast circle, obscuring the sun itself. Everyone watched this strange phenomenon with greatest wonder, prophesying that it portended some ill omen, some urging that it foreshadowed the rule of four princes at once in the land, a prophecy which, as we know, was fulfilled, though of the two wonders the earthly wonder was perhaps the greatest.

In watching this strange sight it escaped the attention of the populace that another phenomenon was occurring in their midst ; the army of women, which was drawing near, had surrounded the fortress in the most disciplined manner.

Having accomplished this movement Ilka headed a deputation to the Assembly consisting of a hundred of her companions, comprising the *noblesse* of Transylvania.

They were met in front of the Diet by the sergeant-at-arms, who asked the deputation whither they were going. Ilka Domakos at once replied, " We desire admission to the Diet in order to effect the

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release of our captive husbands." "A glorious idea," replied the courtly gentleman, "it is quite *à propos*; the matter is just being discussed at this moment. Pray walk in."

With this the deputation of women entered the Assembly. At the time of the arrival of Ilka and her deputation, a heated discussion was proceeding, the members of the Council of State having been reprimanded severely for having advised the Prince to undertake his expedition into Poland without the previous consent of the Assembly, and the member speaking roused the sympathy of the House by pointing, in a dramatic manner, at the large number of distinguished ladies present whose husbands had been seized by the Turks and carried away into cruel captivity as a result of this reckless expedition. The members of the Council, one after another, in vain tried to justify themselves, but the general uproar was such that they could not be heard.

At last Francis Rhédey rose to speak, and, as behoved with one who was so greatly revered by all, silence fell on the House. Rhédey assured the Assembly that neither he nor any other member of the Supreme Council of State had had the smallest knowledge of the ill-fated expedition, which the Prince had undertaken entirely on his own responsibility. Yet, he urged, it became their duty now to support the Prince in his hour of adversity, and when on a sick bed, advising as the wisest course that they should despatch a deputation forthwith to the Prince to acquaint him with what had transpired in the House, and insisting on his taking such steps as



COUNT LÁSZLO RHÉDEY XIII, †1835
(GREAT-GRANDFATHER OF HER MAJESTY)

*Reproduced from a portrait, by special permission of Baroness Ödön de Horváth,
née Countess de Rhédey*

THE SIEGE OF WOMEN

would secure the immediate release of the Transylvanian captives, and facilitate the peace negotiations between the Sultan and the Principality.

This proposition was accepted with unanimous applause, and the House was just about to adjourn for the day, the dinner hour having sounded, when suddenly Ilka Domakos arose, and turning towards the Assembly, exclaimed, in clear and decisive tones, "Gentlemen, if you think we women have come here to listen to your fine oratory, you are very much mistaken. We have come to ask you to effect the release of our husbands, and you shall not leave this House till you have come to a final decision on this point. You are in a great hurry to get away to your dinners, but you forget that ninety thousand sons of Transylvania are at this moment starving in degradation, captives in the hands of the wild and savage Tartars. No, you shall not escape us so easily." At this a great hubbub arose among the members, some protesting against this outbreak of the women who dared thus to disturb Parliamentary discipline; others, however, were inclined to take their part.

In the meantime, an even greater tumult arose outside the Assembly. Ilka's army of women, who till now had been satisfied to peep in through the windows and doors of the House, were trying to force their way into the Parliament, and the sentries found themselves powerless to resist the intruders. In no time the House was invaded by hundreds of women, who practically took possession of the whole Assembly. It was useless to attempt to pacify them, for a hundred tongues were now all talking at once.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

Francis Rhédey, the Speaker, at length obtaining a hearing, pointed out to them that it was this very subject that the House was deliberating, and he begged Countess Ilka to depart in peace and not cause any disturbance in the sacred precincts of the Diet. "But what is the good of deliberating?" asked Ilka; "the emissaries of the Sultan are here at our gates. Give them the money they demand and our husbands will be freed." "But, honoured lady," courteously retorted Rhédey, "where is to be found the enormous sum that is demanded?" "What is the good of asking me such a question? What is the good of our Assembly when the members have to ask a woman where they are to get their money from?" —a reply which caused much laughter.

"However, if you wish to know, I will tell you. As you are aware, our late revered Prince George Rákóczy I. left a large fund to be used only when his country was in danger and in urgent need; surely there has never been a greater need than now?" "Excellent idea," exclaimed many of the members, and it was unanimously agreed that this fund should be devoted to the purpose demanded, the ladies being courteously requested by Francis Rhédey to depart in peace, as the House was about to adjourn. "But it is all very well," replied the persistent Ilka, "for you to agree with this idea, but what is the use if the money is, after all, not forthcoming. You all know well that as soon as Prince Rákóczy's widow learns of the decision of the Assembly, she will quickly pack up her belongings and leave the Principality for her Hungarian estate, where the House has no juris-



COUNTESS LÁSZLÓ RHÉDEY
(GREAT-GRANDMOTHER OF HER MAJESTY)

From a painting, by kind permission of Countess Ódön de Horváth

THE SIEGE OF WOMEN

diction. I should advise the instant arrest of the Princess." Upon this a great hubbub arose, it being felt that this was going too far, but it was finally agreed that a deputation be despatched to the Dowager Princess, acquainting her of the resolution of the House, and requesting her presence before them. A deputation was therefore sent to Prince Rákóczy to make known to him the resolution of the Diet.

The Prince for once happened to be genuinely indisposed, and indeed was so irritated at the constant series of deputations sent to him that he signed the decree presented him without at first realising its serious nature. Everyone in the Diet was astounded and pleased at the Prince having given his consent to such a step, and only Ilka remained suspicious. "Do not be so elated!" she exclaimed to her companions. "Let us at once hasten to surround the Castle, so that the Prince may be prevented from sending any messages to the Princess Rákóczy at Fogaras, giving her a chance to escape to Hungary." The idea was an excellent one, but, alas, the women arrived too late; for barely had the deputation from the Diet departed, than Rákóczy, without delay, despatched a messenger in disguise to the Princess, informing her of her imminent arrest, and advising her to fly from the country, while at the same time he sent another messenger to his garrison at Kolozsvár and Gyulafehérvár, desiring them to hold themselves in immediate readiness.

His attitude, it must be remembered, was not one dictated by any unpatriotic opposition to the

THE HOUSE OF TECK

Diet, but he was thirsting to revenge his defeat by the Turks, and to effect the release of the captives, not with gold and silver, but with cold steel.

When the Diet learned of the escape of the Princess Rákóczy they were much incensed against George Rákóczy, whom they accused of playing a double game. Further, they were being pressed hard by the Sultan's envoy, who had informed them that his master would agree to no other terms but the instant dismissal from the throne of Prince Rákóczy, and the election of another prince in his stead, failing which, the Turkish troops would invade the territory and lay waste the land. Realising that they had now no other alternative than to comply with these demands, the Assembly solemnly promised the dethronement of Prince George Rákóczy, and by unanimous acclamation Francis Rhédey was elected his successor. Seizing on the person of their revered Speaker, and lifting him up in his chair, they carried him in triumph round the House.

In vain Rhédey begged to be heard ; the enthusiasm was intense, but at last, peremptorily demanding to be listened to, he modestly urged that he was not fitted for such a post at his age, that another more capable than he should be elected, and finally entreated them to proceed with the election in more constitutional order by a series of secret votes. His dignified advice was followed, but the election was duly confirmed.

Such was the uproar that it could be heard far outside the House, reaching even the ears of Prince George Rákóczy in his castle, as standing at one of



COUNTESS CLAUDIA RHÉDEY

(HER MAJESTY'S GRANDMOTHER)

*Reproduced from a painting, by kind permission of Baroness Ödön de Horváth,
née Countess de Rhédey*

THE SIEGE OF WOMEN

the windows he, with pale stern face, looked out on to the Parliament, where he could see his family banner already lowered from the flagstaff where the national standard was flying.

A few moments later his trumpet sounded, the gate of the fortress was opened, and the Prince on horseback, drawn sword in hand, and surrounded by his troops, marched out of the castle. It would have been an easy task for him to enter the Assembly and, with the soldiers at his command, compel the members to rescind their decision, but his way was barred by the crowd of women, who, by their threatening attitude, were evidently prepared to put obstacles in his way. His natural gallantry led him to pause. At this moment Ilka Domokos threw herself before him. "You need not hesitate," she cried. "Go on ; slaughter us with the sword in your hand. You could do no good with it against your enemies ; go on and kill your own people. Life for us has no object, as our husbands are far away suffering misery."

George Rákóczy grew pale with anger ; the words seemed to deal him a harder blow than any he had received at the hands of his enemies. Just as he was reflecting a trumpet-call was heard. Rákóczy was startled ; he recognised at once that it was not the call of his own men, but that of the Turkish troops. Looking round he saw the Turkish Envoy, attired in gala uniform, galloping towards him accompanied by a small detachment of soldiers. Quite ignoring the presence of the Prince, the Envoy halted in front of the House, and unfolded and forthwith read

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a huge parchment document, the Sultan's *iradé* to the people of Transylvania, informing them that unless they instantly dismissed from the throne Prince George Rákóczy, and elected a successor, their dominions would be invaded and the country put to fire and sword. At the conclusion of this insolent message Rákóczy, his face flushed and his eyes bloodshot with indignation, raised his head with dignity, and glancing around him, simply exclaimed, "Let those who like to meet the Pasha of Buda and defeat him in the field follow me"; and with these words still on his lips galloped off amidst the enthusiasm of his troops, still faithful to their leader.

Just as Rákóczy reached the limits of the town he cast a final glance behind him towards his castle, where at that moment he saw a new banner being hoisted on the flagstaff, side by side with the National Standard, the double-tailed lion rampant, the banner of the Rhédey family. "Ha!" said the Prince to László Rhédey (the son of Francis Rhédey), who was riding by his side as one of his principal aides-de-camp, "who would have dreamed that it would have been your father, the modest, retiring gentleman, who would push me from my throne." László smiled. "You can take it for granted," he replied, "that he has been driven to it. You may be sure that no one will be more grateful than he when the time comes for you to relieve him of his responsibilities." "I think you are right," replied Rákóczy, and gave orders for his troops to advance with all speed on Diószeg, near the River Maros; there, with a hand-

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ful of men, he boldly faced the numerous Turkish forces, which he eventually almost annihilated. But this victory did not end the war. It was only the commencement of a series of battles which lasted for months, from which, however, Rákóczy emerged the conqueror, till finally the all-powerful Sultan had to submit, not only to the humiliation of being defeated by Rákóczy, but, on the abdication of Francis Rhédey, of seeing Rákóczy once more called to occupy the throne of Transylvania.

Rákóczy was true to his word as regards the release of the captives in the Crimea, whose freedom he did not purchase by gold and silver, but by the steel of his trusty sword.

HOW RHÉDEY OUTWITTED TÁLTOSSY

Another amusing story is also related of Ferencz Rhédey by the same author, and runs somewhat as follows :—

In the extreme north-east of Hungary, just where the great Hungarian lowlands meet the Carpathian Mountains, stands the town of Huszt. There is a ruin hard by, a relic of the mighty fort which, in olden days, was one of the strategic keys between Hungary and Transylvania and the Moldavian and Wallachian principalities.

It was no wonder, therefore, the Turks, Germans, Hungarian, and Transylvanian princes strove in turn for possession of this important stronghold.

At the time when the story commences, the fort was held by Táltossy, a powerful rebel. It was easy

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at this time for a leader of a revolt to gain a formidable footing, for if he carried on warfare against the Hungarians, he would have the powerful Turk as an ally, and if it suited him to change his tactics, the Turk would be his enemy and the German his friend.

Táltossy was a powerful man, and no one could oust him from the fort of Huszt, especially as he was one of those mediæval heroes who made it known far and wide that should the enemy force their way into the fort he would blow it up with himself, his guards, and the enemy into the bargain.

On the other hand, he was of a humorous disposition, and had often announced that should any one of his enemies outwit him, he would surrender without firing a shot.

It was Prince Francis Rhédey who accepted the challenge. Hero as Táltossy was, he had one particular weakness—common to many people—he imagined himself to be an invalid at times, a fact of which Rhédey was aware. The genial Prince sat down and wrote the following lines :—

“MY DEAR CAPTAIN AND HERO,—Though we have on many occasions fought against each other, this does not prevent me, as a Sovereign Prince and soldier, from recognising your heroic courage; indeed, the more fiercely your bullets rain in our camp, the more I learn with sorrow that you are dangerously ill; I, therefore, trust you will permit me to pay you a visit of sympathy. You need not be afraid, for I shall be alone and unarmed.”

Táltossy, immediately on receipt of this letter, felt much gratification that the mighty Prince of Transylvania should write to him in such terms, and the next moment he was lying in bed with heavy

A GOOD JOKE

blankets and cushions, "very dangerously ill"; he was at the time suffering from high fever.

He rang the bell and asked the servant to bring him pen and ink, and when these came and were placed on a little table by the bed, he sat up and wrote the following lines:—

"ILLUSTRIOUS PRINCE,—Thanks for your sympathy; I shall feel proud to receive a visit from you. I am very ill indeed, but still I am not afraid of my opponents, and therefore you can bring your sword and your army as well."

Rhédey, on the receipt of this letter, ordered his carriage, and, after a few hours' drive, he found himself outside the gates of the castle of Huszt. He was immediately admitted to the presence of Táltossy, especially as he was alone and unarmed.

The meeting was of a most affectionate nature, and heavy tears rolled from the eyes of Táltossy, who was overcome by the kindness of the Prince.

Rhédey approached the bed and said, "Ah, Táltossy, you seem very dangerously ill. I am a bit of a doctor myself; let me feel your pulse."

He placed his fingers on Táltossy's wrist, looked very seriously into his face, and said, "Táltossy, you are a great hero, and therefore, I trust, you will have courage to hear that there is not one day's life in you, unless medical aid is summoned at once. There is a famous doctor at Szatmár, but he would not come to you, for he is a staunch Imperialist, and you are a pronounced enemy of his party. But I will send up my carriage with a couple of your men to fetch him. It will be necessary to have these men to serve as guides and escorts."

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Táltossy grasped Rhédey's hand, and ordered two of his men to start in the carriage, which was to be driven by the Prince's coachman. The doctor arrived and he confirmed the grave opinion pronounced by the Prince, and said he must send the carriage back at once to his house for fresh medicine. He kept on changing his mind over and over again, and each time the carriage went back with two men inside as arranged.

At last Rhédey approached the bed of the invalid and said, "Táltossy, my friend, you had better rise ; there is no time for you to be ill, for the fortress is occupied by my men ; and you are a prisoner in my hands."

"What ?" exclaimed Táltossy. "I a prisoner in your hands ? How about my loyal men who guard the castle ?"

"Your guards," said Rhédey, smilingly, "changed places with mine. As often as the doctor sent my carriage for the medicine with two of your men inside, the carriage returned with two of my men, and the gates of the castle are now guarded by my men."

"You have outwitted me, Prince," said Táltossy, "here is my sword, I am your prisoner."

"No, friend Táltossy, you can keep your sword," said Rhédey. "But I hope you have no objection if I take charge of the fort."

CHAPTER V

THE TRANSYLVANIAN BRANCH

With the death of Francis Rhédey the family became split into two distinct branches—those members of the family remaining in Transylvania became known as the Transylvanian branch, whilst the others formed the members of the Hungarian branch. We need not trouble the reader with any details regarding the latter family as, with the exception of Count Lajos Rhédey II., to whom special reference will be made, few of its members gained any particular distinction, and therefore we shall confine ourselves merely to the story of the Transylvanian branch of the house, more especially as from this branch sprung the grandmother of Her Majesty Queen Mary and her brothers on her father's side.

This branch of the House of Rhédey, founded by János V., in course of time became so numerous, and its members one and all have in so great a measure contributed to the glory of their house and country, that it would be a difficult task in a volume like this to give even the most meagre account of their career. We shall, therefore, have to be content with confining our description to the

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principal members of the family, and make special reference to those who stood nearest in relationship to the maternal ancestors of the late Duke of Teck.

János V., the founder of the Transylvanian branch of the House of Rhédey, who was brought up at the Court of Gábor Bethlen, was intimately associated with that great prince in the rule of his country. He died about the year 1687. Two of his sons, Ferencz V. and István IX., were both men of considerable importance, and they and the Telekis were considered the leaders of the country.

Pál VIII. and Ádam II., sons of István IX., took a prominent part in the rising headed by the famous Francis Rákóczy II. (1705–1711).

After the treaty of Szatmár, in which peace was restored to Hungary for a considerable time, the Rhédeys, whose chief quality and birthright was courage, and who always came to the fore when their country was in danger, retired to their estates, and endeavoured to ameliorate the condition of the people, and whilst refraining from taking an active part in the public administration of affairs, they were always regarded as the leaders of the country, and their voice carried the greatest weight with the sovereigns of Hungary.

During the reign of Maria Theresia, when that noble queen had to defend herself almost against most of the Continental powers, she found loyal and brave adherents amongst the Rhédeys.



COUNT JÁNOS RHÉDEY VII., † 1768

ONE OF MARIA THERESIA'S DISTINGUISHED GENERALS

*From a miniature. Published by special permission of the Baroness Ödön de Horváth,
née Countess de Rhédey*

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JÁNOS VII.

Amongst the distinguished members of the family who came to the front was János VII.—one of those Hungarian nobles who were present at the memorable Diet of Pozsony (Pressburg), when Maria Theresia with her child in her arms appealed to the Hungarian nobles for their protection, and they, with drawn swords, exclaimed, “*Moriamur pro rege nostro Maria Theresia !*” János VII. took part in a series of battles against Prussia in Silesia in the cause of Maria Theresia. In 1765 he was promoted to the rank of a general, and to the command of the Body Guard of Hungarian Nobles, founded by Maria Theresia in recognition of her gratitude to the Hungarians for their loyal devotion and bravery in defending her empire.

In 1767, feeling his health giving way, he resigned his commission in the army, on which occasion Maria Theresia wrote to him an autograph letter thanking him for the great services rendered by him to the country, and imploring him, for the salvation of his soul, to change his faith and become a Roman Catholic. Count János Rhédey, whilst expressing his thanks and loyal homage to the great Queen for her kindly interest in his person, declined to change his religion, and preferred to remain a Protestant, for the preservation of which faith his ancestors had fought so loyally. He was created a Count by Maria Theresia, who at the same time conferred

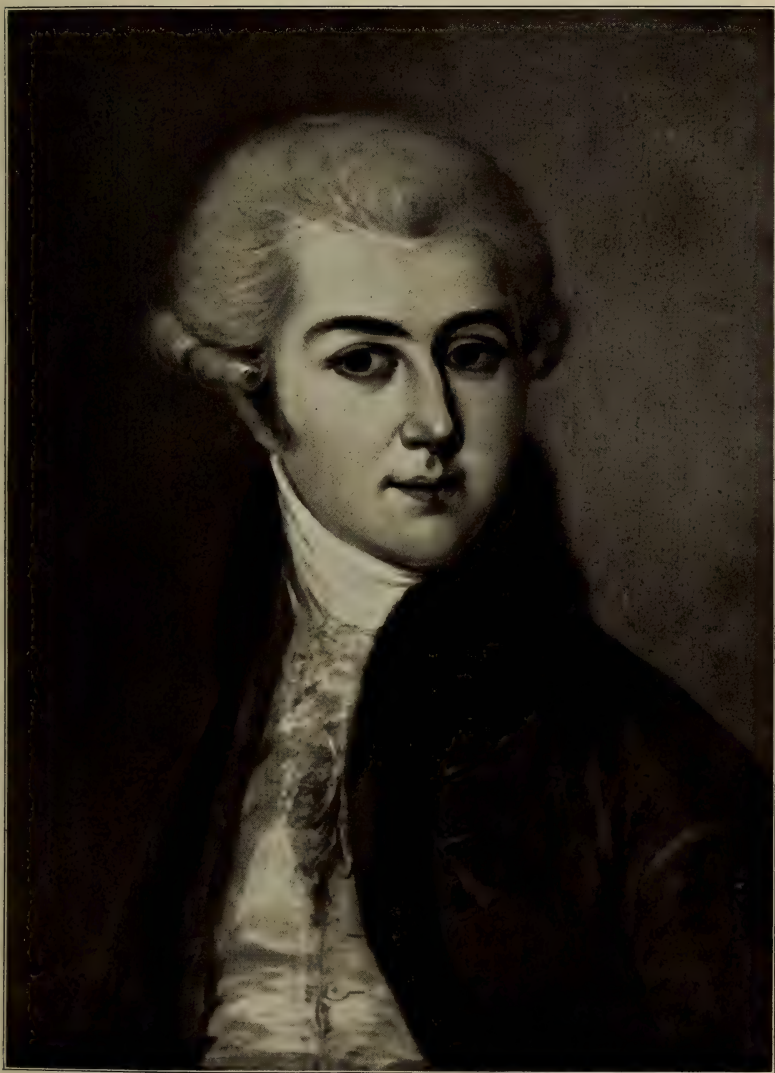
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a similar dignity upon all the members of the family, both male and female.

He died at Vienna on January 10th, 1768. His remains were removed to Kolozsvár, where on July 10th they were laid to final rest in the Great Reformed Church of that town.

LAJOS RHÉDEY II.

Lajos II., who belonged to the Hungarian branch of the family, came specially to the fore in the seventeenth century, and his activity extended to the Napoleonic period. Like all the Rhédeys, he was destined for a military career, and became a great favourite with the Emperor Francis I., and at the time of the coronation of that monarch as King of Hungary he received the highest military distinction that it was in the power of his Sovereign to bestow. In 1808 the Emperor Francis I. appointed him Royal Chamberlain, and created him a Count of the Realm, and at the same time nominated him to the post of Lord Lieutenant and Administrator of the county of Bihar, which, during the Napoleonic war, was one of the most important posts in the land. When the members of the royal family had precipitately to leave Vienna, the Archduchess Maria Beatrice took refuge with him at Nagy Várád. Count Lajos, during this troublesome period, raised a regiment at his own expense, the colours of which were embroidered and presented to the regiment by the Archduchess.



COUNT JÁNOS RHÉDEY, †1850

(BROTHER OF HER MAJESTY'S GREAT-GRANDFATHER)

*Reproduced from a painting, by special permission of the Baroness de Horváth,
née Countess de Rhédey*

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During the time he held the post of Lord Lieutenant in Nagy Várád he endeared himself to the people by his wise and just rule, and, above all, for his noble heart. He made many munificent gifts to the town, amongst these the magnificent park, and several properties outside the city walls. He was also one of the founders of the theatre at Nagy Várád. Upon his retirement in 1819, when he went to live in his country estates, he presented his residence to the town in the same manner. This is now used as the headquarters of the Military Commandant of the 17th Regiment. He also made large gifts to the National Hungarian Museum and the Vienna Military Academy.

He was a highly-cultured man and a great patron of art and science, and Michael Csokonai, who was the greatest poet of the day, mainly owes his fame to the patronage of Count Lajos Rhédey. So grateful was Csokonai to the family that at the time of the death of Countess Rhédey, the poet, who was lying ill in bed, journeyed speedily from Debreczen to Nagy Várád to be present at her interment, and recited an ode which he had written for the occasion.

Count Lajos Rhédey, besides being a great patron of art, published himself also a variety of books and poems. One of his poems, written in honour of the birthday of the Archduke Joseph, Palatine of Hungary, was set to the music of Mozart, and performed with great success at Nagy Várád in the year 1799. He died at Budapest at the age of seventy-one, on May 27th, 1831. Of this branch of the Rhédey family there is only one living

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male descendant, István de Rhédey, who lives at Apa.

By the courtesy of M. Charles Rimler, Burgo-master of Nagy Várád, we are able to present several illustrations, especially taken for this work at the desire of the Municipal Council of Nagy Várád, in connection with this distinguished member of the Rhédey family.

COUNT ÁDAM RHÉDEY III.

Coming back to the Transylvanian branch of the family, next in prominence was Count Ádam Rhédey III. He held for many years the position of Lord Lieutenant of Transylvania. In 1830 he became Lord of the Treasury. He was immensely rich and used his wealth for the benefit of mankind. Many are the stories which are told about him in connection with his fabulous fortune.

One day, it is related, he arrived in Debreczen just at the time of the holding of the fair which was so famous, being second in importance to that of Nijni Novgorod. Ádam Rhédey tried in vain to find accommodation for himself and his numerous suite, for all the hotels and private houses were packed with visitors.

In his search for lodgings he noticed an imposing house which had a board outside stating that it was to be sold. Ádam Rhédey entered the house and enquired if he could have lodgings for himself and his suite. The landlord demurred, and said that he expected other guests.



COUNTESS JÁNOS RHÉDEY
(NÉE JOSEFA, BARONESS BÁNFFY, SISTER-IN-LAW OF HER MAJESTY'S
GREAT-GRANDMOTHER)

From a portrait, by kind permission of Baroness Ödön de Horváth

THE HOUSE OF RHÉDEY

Rhédey then said to him, "I see your house is to be sold. What is the price of it?" The owner mentioned the figure, which was a considerable sum, whereupon Rhédey took out his purse and paid him the amount at once, with the characteristic remark, "Though you did not like me to be your guest, I have great pleasure in inviting you and your family to remain here as my guests."

In 1848, during the Hungarian War of Independence, he gave the national cause a hundred-weight of silver coins. Ádam III. made many generous gifts to the town of Nagy Váradi, to which reference will be made later.

He died in the year 1849, and was buried at Kolozsvár on January 29th. His wife, *née* Teleki, had great literary abilities, and translated into Hungarian fourteen sermons of Hugo Blair, published in 1827 at Kolozsvár, with a preface by her husband.

Several members of the Rhédey family were actively interested in the War of Independence of 1848, and it was at the residence of the Countess Sophie Rhédey at Budapest that the leaders of the national rising, Kossuth, Batthányi, and Deák, used to hold their meetings prior to the outbreak of the War of Independence.

Ádam Rhédey had no male issue, and he left his enormous wealth to his daughters, Klara (who was married to Baron István Radák) and Maria, who became the wife of Count Imre Mikó, and, through this latter marriage, the Rhédey family became connected with the great Pejacevich family, which has supplied several Bans or Viceroys to Croatia.

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LÁSZLÓ RHÉDEY XIII. († 1835)

As the grandfather of the late Duke of Teck, László XIII., son of Mihály IV. and nephew of János VII., previously referred to, claims our special attention. László XIII. did not hold any official appointments. He resided partly at Kolozsvár and Vienna, but principally on his estate at Erdő Szent György, where he had a splendid castle surrounded by a very extensive park and ornamental gardens. Near his castle at Kolozsvár stood a wonderful structure, the so-called Suspension House, owing to its base having been erected on columns. This house, which contained a huge ball-room, he had transformed into a theatre and presented to the town of Kolozsvár. It was here that was founded the National Theatre of Kolozsvár, which in course of time became so famous, and now occupies a palatial building.

Count László Rhédey was a very elegant and handsome man, and inherited all the great qualities which characterise the members of this family from its earliest days. He was married to the Baroness Inczédi, of a noble Transylvanian stock, by whom he had one child, the beautiful Countess Claudia. She was universally admired, not only on account of her looks and perfect grace and accomplishments, but also for her noble heart and kindness to those who were beneath her rank, and to those who needed help. It is no wonder, therefore, that she became a popular figure in Society,

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and in the Court circles, where she proved to be the central figure of admiration.

It was at one of the Court balls at Vienna that Prince Alexander of Würtemberg, a young, handsome, and dashing cavalry officer in the Austro-Hungarian army, first saw the enchanting Countess and fell desperately in love with her. Soon afterwards he asked her to become his wife, and by their marriage, which was solemnised in 1835, the Rhédey family became nearly related to the Royal House of Würtemberg.

Prince Alexander of Würtemberg took up his residence at Gratz, where his regiment was stationed, and both he and his beautiful wife became most popular with all classes, and their house became the rendezvous of the *élite* of Society.

At times they would visit Hungary, and on such occasions all the Hungarian and Transylvanian aristocracy gathered round them. Their married life, however, which was a most happy one, was of short duration, for five years after their marriage, on October 1st, 1841, the beautiful wife of Prince Alexander was thrown from her horse during the manœuvres, and was killed on the spot. She was buried in the family vault at Erdő Szent György in Transylvania.* There were three children by this marriage—one son, Francis, who was born at Vienna on August 27th, 1837, and was created Prince of Teck by the King of Würtemberg in 1863,

* A further description of Erdő Szent György will be given in a later part of this volume.

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and two daughters, Claudia and Amalia, both of whom bore the title of Countess of Hohenstein.

After the marriage of the Prince of Teck to Princess Mary Adelaide of Cambridge, the King of Württemberg conferred upon him the title of "*Duke.*"

It is needless to describe here further the life of the late Duke of Teck, which belongs to modern times. We all know how much he endeared himself to the heart of the English people, who hold his memory in the same reverence as that of his beloved Duchess, the Princess Mary Adelaide, the mother of Her Majesty Queen Mary.

Amongst the relations who survived László XIII., of whom special mention should be made as they proved the last descendants of this House, were his nephew Count János Rhédey X. and Count Gábor Rhédey. Count János X., who was born in 1798, married in 1836 Baroness Kata Wesselényi. As an Imperial and Royal Chamberlain he was a most popular figure in Kolozsvár, where he was generally known by his nickname of "Hanzi." He was very wealthy, and used his fortune for the welfare of his country. He contributed a very large sum for the restoration of the Protestant church at Kolozsvár. He had two daughters, to whom we often have occasion to refer, the elder of whom, Stephanie, became Baroness István Wesselényi; the second daughter, Johanna, married Baron Ödön de Horváth, whose mother was a Baroness Inczédi, a sister to Countess László Rhédey XIII., and an aunt to the late Duke's mother. He died in 1872, and with his death and that of his cousin, Count Gábor, which



IN MEMORY OF
CLAUDINE COUNTESS RHÉDEY
COUNTESS HOHENSTEIN
WIFE OF H. R. H. ALEXANDER DUKE OF WÜRTEMBERG
DIED 1841.

ERECTED BY HER GRANDDAUGHTER
VICTORIA MARY PRINCESS OF WALES

RHÉDEY CLAUDINA GRÓFNŐ,
HOHENSTEIN GRÓFNŐ,

SANDOR WÜRTEMBERGI HERCEG
Ő KIRÁLYI FENSÉGE HITVESÉNEK EMLÉKÉRE
MECHALT 1841. ÉVBEN.

EMELTETTE UNOKÁJA VIKTORIA MÁRIA
WALESÍ HERCEGNŐ.

MEMORIAL TABLET ERECTED BY HER MAJESTY IN THE
CHURCH OF ERDŐ SZENT GYÖRGY
PUBLISHED WITH HER MAJESTY'S GRACIOUS PERMISSION

THE LAST OF THE RHÉDEYS

occurred in 1897, the last male representatives of this ancient House passed away. Thus the great star of the House of Aba, which had risen in Central Asia and had shone forth with such glory and brilliance for a thousand years, vanished from the horizon never to appear again.

Its great splendour during its long existence of so many centuries and the glory of its career will ever be remembered in the Crown lands of St. Stephen, in the history in which it played so prominent a part.

* * *

Of the female members of the Rhédey family still living are the daughters of Count János Rhédey X., Baroness István de Wesselényi, and Baroness Ödön de Horváth, previously referred to. To the kind courtesy of the latter I am indebted for a number of interesting family portraits, which I have the privilege of reproducing in this volume.

The Baroness de Horváth has two daughters, the eldest of whom is married to Count Ferdinand Vetter von der Lilie, an officer in the Austro-Hungarian army. The second daughter is the wife of Count Charles Attems.

Like their mother, both ladies are highly esteemed and most popular with those whom they come in contact with.

Another female surviving member of the family is Madame Béla de Frater, whose father, Count István IX., was a cousin to Her Majesty's grandmother. Her son is one of the most talented politicians and writers in Hungary. In one of his recent articles which appeared in a leading Hungarian paper, he gives a most interesting account of the stormy period of 1848.

CHAPTER VI

THE HOUSE OF BÁTHORY.

Next to claim our attention are the Houses of Báthory, Bethlen, and Apaffy, who, like the Rhédeys, descend from the same stock.

There were two great families in Hungary called Báthory—the Báthorys of Gagi and the Báthorys of Gutkeld. The former, like the Rhédeys, were the descendants of the House of Aba, whilst the latter became related to that house by frequent inter-marriages.

The Báthorys of Gagi had their family seat in their native county of Aba uj Torna, in the villages of Szemere.

A number of distinguished personages sprang from this house, and played an important part in the history of the country for several centuries.

One of the Báthorys was a great friend and kinsman of the famous hero, John Hunyady, and fell in the battle of Várna (1444). He fought by the side of Hunyady, and bequeathed him his sword, and his last word to his comrade was, "Take this sword as the only one worthy to bear it, and remember the dying wishes of your friend, whose one desire in the world was to see his country free from the infidel enemy." It is said that it was this sword that



INTERIOR OF PARISH CHURCH OF ERDŐ SZENT GYÖRGY

(IN THIS CHURCH IS BURIED COUNTESS CLAUDIA RHÉDEY, THE GRANDMOTHER OF HER MAJESTY)

Published by the courtesy of the Rev. József Nagy, Vicar of Erdő Szent György

THE HOUSE OF BÁTHORY

led Hunyady to the many victories by which he became immortal, and it was also with this sword that Hunyady's son, the great King Matthias Corvinus, defeated the Emperor Frederick III., and drove him out of his Austrian dominions.

But the most noted member of the family was Miklós Báthory, who lived in the early part of the sixteenth century. In the great contest between Ferdinand I. of Austria and Szapolyai for the crown of Hungary, he sided with the latter, and fell in his defence at the battle of Tokaj. His son, who was equally held in high esteem and owned the great fortress of Fülek, died there towards the middle of the sixteenth century, and with him this ancient house, which had done so much to maintain the native dynasty on the throne of Hungary, became extinct.

The family possessions then became divided amongst the various members of the House of Aba, and Szemere itself became the property of the family of the same name.

The Báthorys of Gutkeld had already played a prominent part in Hungary in the eleventh century, when one of their ancestors, Apos, aided greatly King Salamon and Géza in their wars against Wratislaw, King of Bohemia, and as a reward for their services received grants of land in various parts of Hungary.

When King Charles Robert of Anjou came to the throne he granted to the family the vast estates of Ecsed, which extended into several counties.

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By this and other grants they became, in course of time, the richest feudal lords in Hungary.

Next in importance comes Andreás Báthory, who in 1498 built the famous family castle of Ecsed, which for centuries proved a formidable rival of the palace of the King itself, and indeed excelled it in splendour in many ways. His son, István III, became Palatine of Hungary.

One of the Báthorys built the great monastery of Nyir Bátor. Historians record of him that he could neither read nor write, although he was endowed with great intelligence and occupied many high public appointments.

Another member of the family, Andreás Báthory, in the year 1524, held the important post of Ban of Belgrade at the critical moment when the Turks were frequently knocking at the gates of Hungary, and Belgrade was the key to that country. He also took part in the battle of Mohács in 1526 against the Turks, which proved so disastrous to the Hungarians, and was principally the means of raising Ferdinand I. of Habsburg to the throne of Hungary.

His brother Miklós III., on the other hand, was at first an adherent of Szapolyai, the rival King to Ferdinand, but later he deserted his cause and became a partisan of Ferdinand I.

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ISTVÁN (STEPHEN) BÁTHORY, KING OF POLAND
(1575–86)

But it was István Báthory who was the pride of the family, and who established its fame and greatness for all time. Born in 1533, and of a race who were the main pillars of Hungary during the Habsburg rule just inaugurated by Ferdinand I., but very feebly established, young Báthory was brought up at the Court of Ferdinand I. at Vienna, and was imbued with ideas of imperialism, but as he grew up he deserted that cause and associated himself with Szapolyai, who appointed him Waiwode of Transylvania.

After the death of Szapolyai he was sent to Vienna as a special ambassador to represent the interest of Zigismond, the infant son of Szapolyai, who was elected King of Hungary by a large party, in spite of a special treaty which was concluded between Szapolyai and Ferdinand I., by virtue of which after the death of the former the kingdom of Hungary should revert to the latter. Stephen Báthory, having been declared a rebel, was captured and kept in prison for two years. At the death of the young King Zigismond, Stephen Báthory was elected Prince of Transylvania in spite of the strong protest of the Vienna Court.

The throne of Poland having become vacant in 1575 by the death of Augustus Sigismond, the last male representative of the House of Jagellon, several candidates came forward, each of whom

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had his adherents. One party elected Henry of Anjou, the son of Catherine de Medici, but who, upon the death of his brother Charles IX., precipitately left the country in order to ascend the throne of France. The Archduke Maximilian, afterwards Emperor, had also his supporters, and it was intended that he should marry Princess Anna, the daughter of the late Polish King, but she refused his suit, and became betrothed to Stephen Báthory, who thereupon was elected King of Poland.

Having abdicated the throne of Transylvania in favour of his brother Christopher, he proceeded to Cracow, where he was anointed King.

Stephen Báthory proved to be one of the greatest sovereigns that ever sat on the throne of Poland; in fact, next to Boleslaw I., he may be claimed as the greatest Polish king. He entirely reorganised the country, which at the time of his accession was in a demoralised state, and in order to protect the country from the outside enemy, he founded the famous Polish Cossack Regiment. He established the University of Vilna, and encouraged learning. Stephen Báthory defeated Czar Ivan, challenging him to personal combat, which the latter refused, whereupon he proclaimed him a coward. So much was he loved by his Polish subjects that they declared that his death meant the death of the Polish nation.

Not having had any issue, it was his secret aim that his nephew Zigismond, who now occupied the throne of Transylvania, should succeed him and unite under one sceptre the kingdoms of Hungary



COUNT JÁNOS RHÉDEY, †1872

FROM A PAINTING, PUBLISHED BY SPECIAL PERMISSION OF HIS DAUGHTER,
BARONESS ÖDÖN DE HORVÁTH, NÉE COUNTESS DE RHÉDEY

THE HOUSE OF BÁTHORY

and Poland, and his ambition in this respect might have been realised had it not been for the fact that Zigmund Báthory's rule was not of a nature to inspire either the Hungarians or the Poles to elect him as king, for though to him was due the credit of having inflicted a great defeat upon the Turks, commanded by the Grand Vizier himself, and of having conquered Moldavia, yet his tyrannical rule and his foreign tendencies made his people detest him to such an extent that he saw the necessity of abdicating, and arranged to hand over the Principality to Germany in exchange for the Duchy of Oppeln. He, however, soon regretted the bargain, for in 1600 he invaded the country at the head of a Polish army, with a view of regaining possession of the Principality, but this time he was defeated, and was compelled to abdicate in favour of his nephew, Andreás Báthory.

Andreas Báthory was brought up at the Court of Poland. In his early days he joined the priesthood and was nominated Bishop in Poland. Through the influence of his uncle, Stephen Báthory, he was created Cardinal; Pope Clement VIII. nominated him Papal Legate and sent him on different missions.

At the time of his election he was in Poland, and he immediately left the country to assume the rule of the Principality, where, upon his arrival, he found his rights contested by a large party who favoured the election of Waiwode Michael. This led to a civil war, and in the end the Cardinal Prince was slain in a fierce battle fought at Csik-Szent-Domokos.

Pope Clement VIII. was so much angered by the

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death of his favourite Cardinal that he placed Csik-Szent-Domokos under the ban of the Church, and it is noteworthy that no steps were ever taken to release it from this ban. Whether this is due to the fact that the people have since joined the Protestant faith or for any other reason, I cannot say, but the fact remains that Csik-Szent-Domokos has now been under the ban of the Church for over three hundred years.

THE LAST OF THE BÁTHORYS

The last descendant of this mighty Hungarian noble house, which for so many centuries played such an important part in the history of the country, and has placed upon the throne of Hungary more than one king, or removed them therefrom at its will and pleasure, was Gabriel Báthory.

Gabriel Báthory, at the time of his succession to the throne of Transylvania, was twenty-seven years of age and still single. He was exceedingly handsome and of manly bearing, proud, dignified, highly polished, and cultivated, and yet with it all he had the ways and mannerisms which captivated both men and women alike. His sumptuous Court at Fehérvár, which rivalled European Courts in elegance and splendour, and the fair ladies belonging to the *noblesse* of Transylvania, always reputed for their good looks and excellent horsemanship, were to be met there in great numbers.

Exceedingly romantic by nature and fond of adventure of all kinds, Gabriel was anxious to conceal his identity from the general public, and for this

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purpose he assumed the name of Ecsed, and made one of his favourite councillors pose as Prince of Transylvania.

It only having been known to a privileged few that Ecsed was no other than the Prince, Gabriel Bathory could move freely amongst his subjects, and many of the fair maidens of Transylvania lost their heart to Ecsed, the handsome and gallant companion of the Prince, whom he was generally taken to be.

Gabriel Báthory, however, was not content with the flirtations he carried on outside the castle walls, for he made desperate love to the ladies of the Court, and the beautiful Agnes Kornis was a special object of his affection. But this noble-minded woman was as virtuous as she was beautiful, and loved her husband with all the passion of which a woman's heart is capable. She repulsed the persistent addresses of Gabriel Báthory, who went so far as to suggest that he would arrange the annulment of her marriage to Kornis and make her his Princess, and to avoid his addresses she henceforth absented herself from all Court functions.

Now the Kornis family, as we shall have occasion to point out in another part of this volume, belonged to the oldest and proudest of Hungarian noble families, and claimed descent from a certain French marquis, named Guillaume Kornis, who settled in Hungary in the reign of King Samu Aba, and after the death of that monarch is supposed to have married his widow, Queen Charlotte.

The family were also nearly related to the

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Rhédeys, Bethlens, and all the leading families of Hungary and Transylvania.

Boldizsár Kornis himself, the husband of the beautiful Agnes, was a man of special importance in his country, and it was mainly due to his influence and that of his kinsman, Gábor Bethlen, that Gabriel Báthory was elected to the throne of Transylvania, and for a long time he proved to be one of his staunchest supporters.

Ignorant of the cause which made his wife adopt such an attitude towards the princely Court, he pressed her for an explanation in the matter, and Agnes had no alternative but to divulge to him her reasons, which, in order to spare the feelings of her husband, she had kept a secret from him. The proud Kornis, upon hearing this, became indignant and, with a drawn sword, made his way to the palace and into the presence of the Prince, demanding from him satisfaction for the insult offered to him and his wife.

This having been refused by the haughty Prince, Boldizsár Kornis proclaimed him a coward, and placed himself at the head of a movement to dethrone Gabriel Báthory. The revolution failed, and Boldizsár Kornis was captured and executed.

This and other acts of tyranny on the part of Gabriel Báthory led to a series of revolts, and finally, in the year 1613, Gábor Bethlen, who was destined to become so famous in the history of Hungary, raised an army against him and expelled him from Transylvania. Báthory took refuge in his Hungarian dominions, and negotiated with the German Emperor for his co-operation in order to reconquer



BARONESS MICHAEL DE HORVATH
(NÉE INCZÉDI) AS A CHILD
(SISTER TO HER MAJESTY'S GREAT-GRANDMOTHER)



BARON MICHAEL DE HORVÁTH
AS A YOUTH

Reproduced from portraits, by kind permission of Baroness Ödön de Horváth, née Countess de Blüdey

SOPHIA BÁTHORY

Transylvania, but he was assassinated at Nagy Várad by some of his former adherents, who wished to avenge the death of Boldiszár Kornis.

With the death of Gabriel the mighty and princely House of Báthory became extinct.

The beautiful Agnes Kornis, after the sad death of her husband, entered a convent, where ten years later she died.

SZÓFIA (SOPHIA) BÁTHORY

Amongst the female members of the Báthory family, Sophia Báthory made herself notorious by her persecution of the Protestants. This lady was married to George Rákóczy II. in 1643, five years before his accession to the throne of Transylvania.

One of the marriage stipulations was that she was to become a Protestant, which faith she embraced in due course, but after the death of her husband she not only rejoined her former faith, but she also caused the conversion of her son, Francis Rákóczy II., to the Catholic religion. She was entirely in the power of the priests, and settled upon the Jesuit order the revenues of a number of her vast estates, and built a Jesuit church at Kassa.

She compelled her feudal tenants to join the Catholic faith, persecuted those who declined to change their religion, and dispersed their priests.

Her hatred for the Protestants was so intense that she was more than once referred to as "the Catherine de Medici of Hungary."

She wrote a new version of the Bible, which was

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published in the early part of the eighteenth century. Her wealth was unbounded, and her vast estates yielded a royal revenue.

Another member of the family, Anna Báthory, became notorious by her being accused of witchcraft. She, however, was set free by the intervention of Ferencz Rhédey II., who pleaded her cause before the Prince of Transylvania, and out of gratitude she settled upon him a large estate and the entire village of Thóti.

Elisabeth Báthory was even more notorious. She was handsome but extremely vain, and jealous to a degree; and desirous of being the only good-looking woman of the district, she allured to her castle all the prettiest maidens of the neighbourhood, and had them stifled. When the horrible crime was discovered, she defended herself in her castle at Cetnje for a considerable time, and only surrendered by a clever strategy on the part of the besiegers, amongst whom was the Palatin Thurzó himself. The culprit, however, remained unpunished, as she was declared insane.

CHAPTER VII

THE BETHLEN FAMILY

The Bethlen family may justly be proud of belonging to an ancient stock, whose members throughout many centuries have distinguished themselves in the field of battle, and for having had as one of their ancestors Gabriel Bethlen, the greatest prince that ever sat on the throne of Transylvania, a champion of freedom, and one of the most chivalrous princes of his time.

The family can also boast of having amongst its members a long array of both men and women who, from the earliest ages, have devoted themselves to science and art, using the knowledge thus gained for the good of their native country, which even in the Middle Ages was regarded as one of the most cultured States in Europe.

The principal seat of the Bethlen family is situated in their cradle home, Bethlen, where they have a magnificent castle surrounded by an extensive park. There is also a very interesting family museum on the estate, and the studs of Count Sándor Bethlen are famous.

The founders of this ancient family, who branched off from the House of Aba in the thirteenth century, made themselves prominent in the reign of King Béla III. One of the family was the Waiwode of

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Transylvania in the reign of King Ladislaus V. of Hungary.

The pride of the family, however, as already stated, was Gabriel Bethlen.

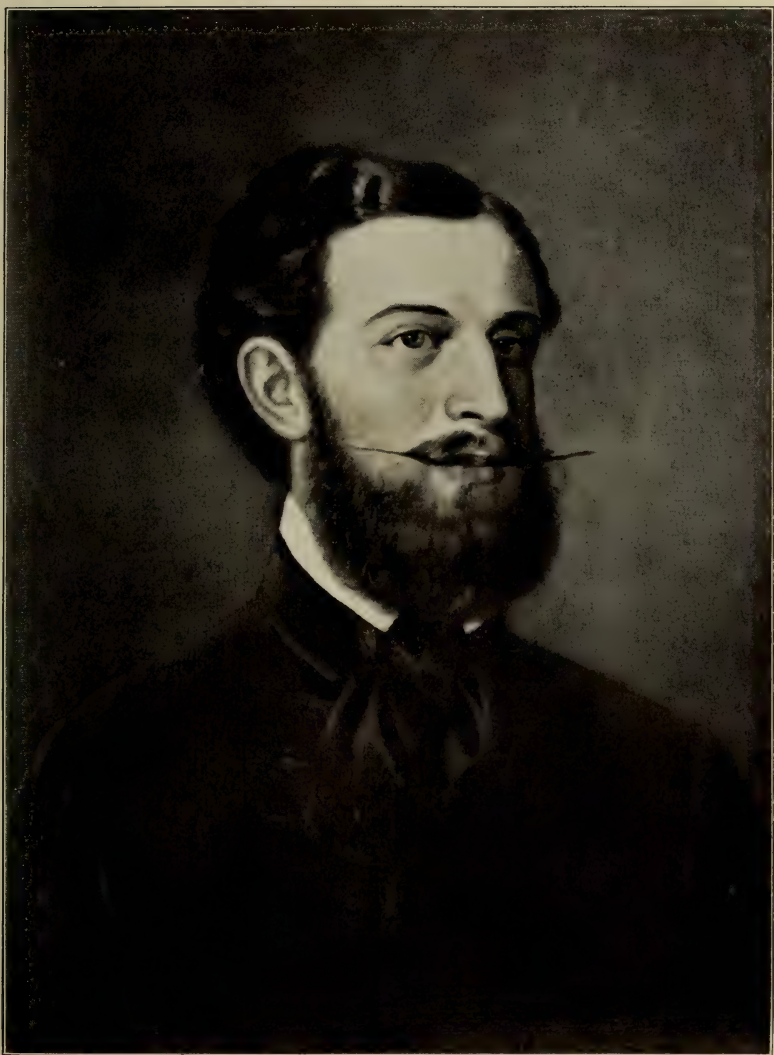
GÁBOR (GABRIEL) BETHLEN (1580-1629)

Gabriel Bethlen was one of the greatest and most prominent figures of the seventeenth century.

When he was a youth of sixteen he joined the service of Zigismond Báthory, and at the age of twenty led the forces of the Principality against the rebel Waiwode.

Upon the abdication of Zigismond Báthory he became an adherent of Bocskay and defeated Mózes Székely, the rival claimant of Bocskay, whereupon the latter was elected prince. After the death of Bocskay, Gabriel Báthory was, at the suggestion of Bethlen, elevated to the throne, but having been badly treated by this tyrant prince, and seeing that his life, like that of his friend Boldizsár Kornis, was in danger, he escaped to Turkey, whence, in the year 1613, he returned with a large army and defeated Gabriel Báthory, who, as already mentioned, had to take refuge in Hungary, at Nagy Várád, where he was assassinated.

Gabriel Bethlen, who succeeded him, though an opponent of his, was so horrified at this deed that his first act was to order the execution of his assassins. At the very outset of his rule, Gabriel Bethlen became involved in trouble with the German Emperor, who did not approve of his election, owing to his well-known animosity towards the German Imperial House, but



BARON ÖDÖN DE HORVÁTH
(NEPHEW OF COUNT LÁSZLÓ RHÉDEY)

*Reproduced from a painting, by kind permission of Baroness Ödön de Horváth,
née Countess de Rhédey*

GABRIEL BETHLEN

as the Sultan insisted upon maintaining him upon the throne, the Emperor Matthias II. in the end had no alternative but to recognise him as prince, which he did in the year 1615, two years after his election.

From his accession till the end of his life, Gabriel Bethlen devoted himself to the good of his country and the cause of mankind.

The Thirty Years' War, which had broken out at the commencement of his reign, gave him an opportunity to realise his life's ambition and draw his sword in defence of the Protestant faith. The Emperor was engaged in quelling the revolt which had just broken out in Bohemia, which had for its aim the expulsion of the Habsburg dynasty, and the placing upon the throne the Elector Frederick of the Palatinate, brother-in-law of James I. of England, through whom, as is known, the House of Stuart succeeded to the throne of England. Bethlen was a friend and ally of the Elector, and in order to keep the Emperor's forces engaged, he invaded Hungary and defeated the German army, and made himself master of the whole of Upper Hungary, Pozsony itself, the then capital of Hungary, being captured by him, and he obtained possession of the sacred crown of St. Stephen.

The Emperor thereupon sued for peace, but as Bethlen made it a part of the conditions that he should agree to the separation of Bohemia from Hungary, and the recognition of Frederick as king, nothing came of these negotiations, and Bethlen was, in the year 1622, at a special parliament convened by his adherents at Beszterczbánya, elected King of Hungary.

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This naturally led to a renewal of hostilities between him and the German Emperor, and though victory was on the side of Bethlen, matters suddenly took a fresh turn by the defeat of the Bohemians in the White Mountains, and the expulsion of the Elector Frederick from Bohemia.

In the presence of this victory by the Emperor, Bethlen did not consider it wise to continue the war, and readily availed himself of the offer to conclude peace with the Emperor. By the terms of this treaty Bethlen surrendered all the forts he had taken in Hungary, and returned the crown, which was still in his possession, stipulating, however, that the Emperor was to convene the Hungarian Parliament within six months, to enable it to discuss the remedies whereby the Constitution of the country and the rights of the Protestants should be safeguarded for the future; and this was agreed to.

Though peace was concluded at the time, Bethlen more than once had occasion to fight as the ally of Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden against the Emperor, in the long series of battles during the Thirty Years' War, and was the means of compelling the Emperor to guarantee the rights of the Protestants by the treaties of Vienna in 1623, and of Pozsony in 1626.

Though, like Cromwell, Bethlen was an ardent Protestant, he never persecuted any other religion, and so generous was his conduct in this respect that though he despised the Jesuits, nevertheless there were several instances when he actually helped the Jesuit priests with funds so as to enable them to print new versions of the Bible.

THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR

He was a highly cultured man, and wrote several important works and many psalms, some of which are still sung. It is known of him that he read the Bible through twenty-six times, and knew it by heart. He founded the great Protestant College of Nagy Enyed, which is still the largest college belonging to that faith in Transylvania.

After the death of his first wife, one of the Károlyis, also a connection of the Rhédeys, Bethlen was married to Princess Catherine, daughter of the Elector of Brandenburg. He was a handsome and fine man, of splendid vigour and bearing. He was of great taste and elegance, and his Court was reputed for its splendour.

Two of Bethlen's most constant aims were the banishment of the Jesuits from Transylvania, and the securing of the rights of the Protestants in Hungary and Transylvania.

The part which Bethlen took in the Thirty Years' War gave a European importance to Transylvania, such as it never before nor since that time has enjoyed. For many years Bethlen's favourite project was the restoration of the kingdom of Dacia, the present Transylvania, which formerly extended as far as Hungary, east of the River Tisza.

The greatness of his designs, the fertility of his resources, his diplomatic skill, and the noble principle of religious liberty for which he so bravely fought, commanded for him the universal respect and admiration of the entire civilised world. A number of monuments throughout the country perpetuate his memory.

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Bethlen was succeeded on the throne by his wife, Catherine of Brandenburg, and after her forced abdication, owing to her friendly tendencies towards the German Empire, his brother, Stephen Bethlen, was elected in her stead, but he, too, soon abdicated in favour of George Rákóczy I.

A long line of ancestors follow, who distinguished themselves in many ways as administrators of Transylvania, and as scholars. Of these Farkas Bethlen (1639–1679) immortalised himself as a famous historian and great diplomatist.

He left a large number of works unpublished, and so numerous were these that after his death his brother Elek established a printing press entirely for the purpose of having them produced.

MIKLÓS BETHLEN (1640–1716)

Next to Gabriel Bethlen, Miklós Bethlen certainly deserves to be classed amongst the most distinguished ancestors of this illustrious house, and his name will ever be associated with the famous *Diploma Leopoldinum*.

He was sent by Apaffy on various political missions to the different Courts of Europe, including those of England and France, where his charming personality and great intellect made him most popular with all those with whom he came in contact.

Returning home, he entered the army, and soon rose to the position of Commander-in-Chief.

He subsequently took part in the Thököli rising in 1681, and held many high appointments during



COUNTESS KATINKA VETTER VON DER LILIE
(NÉE BARONESS KATINKA DE HORVÁTH)

MIKLÓS BETHLEN

his *régime*. When, after the defeat of the Turks in Hungary, Transylvania was compelled to recognise the supremacy of the German Emperor, he did everything in his power to induce the Emperor Leopold to respect the Constitution of the Principality, which led to his granting the famous charter of Transylvania above referred to.

Though in many respects this Diploma curtailed the former rights and privileges of the Principality during its independence, the country still retained a certain number of constitutional rights such as were enjoyed by no other Western power during that period.

As an ardent Protestant, Miklós Bethlen often came in conflict with George Bánffy, the Governor-General of the country, owing to the latter, who at one time was a very devout Protestant, having embraced the Catholic faith. Though Miklós Bethlen was held in very high esteem by the Emperor, who created him a Count of the Empire, nevertheless, when he saw that the country was unjustly deprived of its rights, he devised a plan in 1704 for its deliverance from the German rule.

The plan was discovered and Bethlen was thrust into prison, and though the Emperor pardoned him, he left his native country never to behold it again.

His patriotic spirit, the numerous literary works which he published, and the many foundations which he made will keep alive his memory in Hungary for ever as one of its greatest sons and a worthy descendant of the Royal House of Aba.

It would be impossible in the limited space at

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the disposal of the author to do justice to all the ancestors of this noble house, who established their name with so much glory in the annals of their country, though reference should be made here to Ilona Bethlen, daughter of Gergely Bethlen, who became the wife of Apaffy II., the last prince to sit upon the throne of Transylvania.

The romance which led to her marriage to Apaffy is graphically depicted by that immortal writer of Hungary, Maurice Jókai, and is given in the following pages.

Right through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the family have furnished an unusually long list of eminent persons; and, indeed, almost every one of these, both men and women, have contributed to the fame and glory of the family name. They all seem to have had a special aptitude for literature and science.

Amongst these were Count János Bethlen, who established the National Theatre and the National Museum of Transylvania, and founded many religious institutions.

In the nineteenth century Count Farkas Bethlen represented the Progressive Party in the stormy National Diet, which led to its eventual abolition. He was strongly against the ancient feudal rights, though he himself was a great landlord, and he advocated the union of Transylvania with Hungary.

Finally, we come to Andreas Bethlen, who played an important part in the recent Parliamentary Administrations of Hungary. As a great authority on agriculture and a scholar of great eminence, he

ANDREAS BETHLEN

was induced to join the Cabinets of Count Szapáry, and held the portfolio of the Minister of Agriculture in his administration and also that of his successor, Dr. Wekerle, in the year 1890.

A CROWN FOR LOVE *

There was great excitement in the village of Majusfalva on a certain wintry Sunday. The parish church was crowded with worshippers coming from the adjoining villages in spite of the great snow-storm which had covered the entire expanse around with a pure white mantle.

It was a special occasion, for it was the first time an organ, presented to the church by Bethlen, was to be heard by the simple village folk.

After the service was over, Bethlen and his pretty daughter, accompanied by the parish priest, were making their way to the castle of Küküllő, when suddenly a ferocious bear, breaking out of an adjacent forest, rushed upon the party, and flew towards Ilona.

Bethlen threw himself in front of his child, and with marvellous alertness grappled with the savage beast until the priest and villagers came to his assistance, and in a few moments the bear was beaten to death.

After this exciting event Bethlen, the priest, and his daughter returned home.

* The above story of Ilona Bethlen, by Maurice Jókai, is so beautiful that, to do it justice, it should be produced in its entirety, but the author must content himself by giving a mere outline.

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The incident was naturally made the occasion for great rejoicing at the castle of Küküllő.

The guests had departed, but Bethlen still held his daughter in his arms and caressed her with tender affection.

Ilona, who had by this time recovered from the fright and shock she had undergone, now said blushing, "How strange, father! This is the second time I have been attacked by a bear!"

"The *second* time!" exclaimed Bethlen, in tones of surprise.

Ilona became confused, and seemed as though she regretted what had inadvertently escaped her, and she would not have replied had not her father pressed her for an answer.

With a crimson face and drooping her eyes she said in low and subdued tones, "Last autumn, whilst staying with my aunt at Almakerék, I and my maid Magda were roaming in the woods and lost our way. The sun was setting and it was growing dusk, and we were still in the depths of the forest when the huntsman's horn fell upon our ears, and in a moment an infuriated bear, who was evidently being chased, flew straight towards us. Imagine our horror and despair! But all at once, out of the depths of the wood, a young knight riding furiously appeared upon the scene, and before we had actually realised his presence he had stabbed the animal to death.

"Dismounting his horse, he rushed towards us. By this time I was unconscious, so he carried me to the stream near by, and bathed my face with water to



COUNTESS CHARLES ATTEMS
NÉE BARONESS JENKA DE HORVÁTH

A CROWN FOR LOVE

revive me. I did not like to tell you this before, father ! ”

“ Ah ! ” said Bethlen. “ Wait until I trust you out of my sight again ! And what, pray, became of the knight ? Tell me, was he a handsome young man ? ”

Ilona blushed more rosily still, and answered eagerly, “ Oh, yes, father, he was ! His face and form showed him to be a man of noble birth, and his eyes were so bold and yet so tender ! ”

Bethlen exclaimed, “ And you had time to notice all this ! ” Then, drawing her gently towards him, he said, “ Tell me more about it ! How did you manage to return home ? ”

Ilona, in a stammering whisper, replied, “ Of course I felt exhausted after such an exciting experience and could not walk home, so the young knight placed me upon his horse, and walked by my side, but the road was rough, and I nearly slipped to the ground ! ”

“ Well, well ! ” said her father. “ Quick !—tell me what happened then ! ”

“ Well,” answered Ilona, blushing still more deeply, “ there was no other way but for the knight to himself mount and place me before him in the saddle, where he held me safely.” Saying this, she threw herself upon her father’s breast, and hid her burning face from him.

Bethlen broke out into a peal of jovial laughter.

“ Why, my child ! ” he said, “ you seem to have fallen desperately in love with this knight ! And what is his name, pray ? ”

THE HOUSE OF TECK

"I do not know, father."

"Impossible. Have you not asked him?"

"No, father, I did not like to do so, but Magda got to know that he is attached to the Court of Prince Apaffy."

"Ah! if that is the case," said the father, "the matter is very simple. I shall soon get to know all about him. I'll ask the Prince himself."

"I forgot to tell you, father, that he said he was poor."

"Ah! what does that matter?" was Bethlen's reply; "the important question is if he is all right in other respects. If he is an Hungarian gentleman, and suitable to your rank, and if he cares for you!"

Ilona passionately embraced her father, thus betraying the state of her feelings, and saying "Good-night," she retired to her chamber.

* * * * *

That same night in the dim mist two sledges are to be seen in the far distance following each other at a rapid pace in the direction of Küküllő Castle. As they near one another close under the castle, the occupant of the first, a young and handsome knight enveloped in furs, shrouds his face so as to be unrecognisable, and he whispers to his companion, who to all appearances seems to be a confidential servant, "János, we had better turn quickly to the side gate, so that we shall not be noticed by the occupants of yonder sledge."

"Yes, Your Highness," answered the man, "for I am sure that young Michael Bánffy and Ladislaus

A CROWN FOR LOVE

Csaky are seated there, and they also are sure to be making for the castle."

"So you don't think, János, that they recognised us?"

"Oh, I don't think so," was the answer.

"Tell me, János, have you acquainted your daughter with the fact that I desire to see her lady to-night?"

"Yes, sire, but she had the greatest trouble to make her see you alone, and it was only after a great deal of persuasion that she consented to see you for a few moments in the northern wing of the castle."

They had barely arrived at the gates of the tower when the young knight impatiently jumped down, and bidding János to meet him there a little later on, he made his way towards the tower.

A female servant was evidently in waiting for him, for immediately upon his arrival the gates opened to him, and he was told in a whispering voice by the maid that her mistress would see him, but only for one moment. He was conducted to the tower, and in a few minutes stood in the presence of Ilona.

A PRINCE'S LOVE REJECTED

For days the loving pair had been thinking of all the sweet things they would say to one another when they met, but now they were face to face not a word passed the lips of either. At last Ilona broke the silence.

"I am angry with you for coming to see me in

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this way ! Why do you not go and speak to my father, and ask his consent ? ”

“ I would with all my heart, Ilona, but I am afraid he would not agree to our union.”

“ You see,” answered Ilona, with a roguish smile, “ I am more courageous than you are ! You did not dare to ask my father for my hand, so I have done it for you myself ! ”

The knight became suddenly grave, and said, “ Have you told him everything ? ”

“ Yes ! I told him of our strange meeting. He guessed the rest. I also told him that you were poor, and he said that did not matter if everything was right in other respects ! ”

“ I am afraid that you have divulged our secret too soon ! It might interfere with our plans. I fear you have made too sure of your father’s consent, and perhaps, when he sees me, he may make some objections after all ! ”

“ I don’t think you need be afraid of that ! The word of a Bethlen is generally his bond, and their good heart is proverbial ! Father would be the last to interfere with our happiness.”

“ I know that ! I am convinced of it. But there are certain circumstances of which you are not aware which may cause obstacles ! ”

At this very moment the door was thrown open with great force, and Bethlen, in a furious rage, stood facing them. He had been told by his visitors who had just arrived that someone had just got out of a sledge and had made his way to the north tower, where his daughter’s apartments were situated, and,

A CROWN FOR LOVE

finding the stranger actually with her, he at once drew his sword, saying :

“ Wretched man ! I see you have a sword at your side ! Draw it quickly, or you will be cut in pieces before you have a chance to defend yourself.”

Ilona shrieked and threw herself upon her father’s breast. The knight, who until now had turned his face away, now raised his head with an air of dignity and approached Bethlen, who, upon seeing him, became altogether changed. Anger and astonishment were portrayed upon his countenance, and, placing his sword in its sheath, he calmly turned to his daughter’s maid and told her to conduct her mistress to her private apartments.

Ilona became more alarmed at the stern gravity of his demeanour than she had been at the anger previously exhibited by her father. Throwing herself on her knees before him, she said in trembling tones :

“ Did you not tell me that you would not be angry if my choice fell on a worthy knight, no matter how poor he might be ? ”

“ Poor ! ” answered Bethlen with sarcasm. “ He is only the possessor of our little country, Transylvania. It is His Highness, Prince Michael Apaffy ! ”

“ Yes ! It is I ! ” answered Apaffy, advancing. “ And if you will give me your consent I will be your son-in-law, and I promise to make your daughter the happiest woman in Transylvania.”

“ Oh, father ! ” said Ilona, blushing and kissing his hand.

“ You had better retire at once to your room,”

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said Bethlen, in a severe tone. "It is not you whom I have to consider, but the welfare of Transylvania." Saying this, and tenderly kissing his daughter, he led her out of the room and returned to the Prince.

"Your Highness," said he in a tone of respect, "I should like to say much to you, were it not an impertinence to hurt the feelings of a guest, although that guest did not do me the honour to enter my castle by the usual gate ; but this I do desire to say : I would rather you had allowed my daughter to be torn to pieces by the wild bear than that I should see her happiness destroyed by you. You can take it on my solemn oath, never will Your Highness be her husband."

"And what is your objection ?"

"What is my objection, Your Highness ? You know very well that the retention of your throne depends upon your alliance. In a few months' time your minority will expire, and by that time the Princess Marie of Brandenburg, who has been destined for your bride, will also be of marriageable age. I cannot answer for your happiness, but this much is certain, that by this alliance you will be enabled to remain upon your throne. On the other hand, should you marry the daughter of a man of my rank, you may take it for granted that you will be unable to preserve your crown."

"What does it matter to me ?" replied the Prince.

"It matters to me and it matters to the country," answered Bethlen.

"You and I are only two men ; we can live as it

A CROWN FOR LOVE

pleases the Almighty. But the future of Transylvania is at stake here, and I will not allow any love affair between you and my child to stand in the way of the country's independence. Depart from here now with the blessing of God, and fulfil the holy mission which the electors of the country have entrusted to you. It is true you have broken my daughter's heart and my own, but the fate of Transylvania comes before everything." Saying this, he turned with a sad demeanour towards the young Prince, who had listened to him downcast and speechless as he said :

"One word more, Your Highness ; pray remember all that I have said is irrevocable. Therefore, if you really and truly love my daughter, you will, I am sure, consider it a chivalrous duty to approach her no more."

The Prince took his departure in sad silence, his only farewell to Bethlen being a long and heavy sigh.

Bethlen returned to his guests, who were merrily feasting, and said jovially, "Friends Bánffy and Csaky, the cold weather must have affected your sight, for I have seen no stranger in the north tower, where the apartments of my daughter are situated." And with this he pretended to join in the hilarity of the feast. Yet at that moment no man throughout the breadth of Transylvania felt so sad at heart as he.

LOVE REWARDED

From that evening Ilona remained inconsolable, and shut herself up in her own apartments. On

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reflection, Bethlen thought it wise to acquaint his family of what had occurred, and how he had refused to encourage Prince Apaffy's suit, and, as he could not be induced to change his mind, the family council agreed that the wisest course to pursue in order to prevent the young and loving couple from meeting was to take Ilona away for some time from Transylvania, and place her in charge of relations at Nagy Várád. The necessary arrangements were made and all the precautions taken, and the party proceeded in sledges on their journey.

Everything went smoothly, and at last they reached the Saxon Valley, where, owing to the heavy fall of snow, it was impossible for them to proceed any further, as the narrow mountain defiles giving access to Hungary were impassable. There was nothing else to be done but to put up at the village for the night until the snow could be sufficiently cleared away to allow them to continue their journey.

It so happened that Magda's family resided in this very village, and there was no other alternative but to put up at their house. Her father János was, as the readers will remember, in the employ of Prince Apaffy, who had a hunting-seat close by the village of Balázsfalva.

The party rested and refreshed themselves after the fatigue of the day's journey, made themselves as comfortable as they could, and then retired.

Hardly had they closed their eyes when they were rudely awakened by tumultuous sounds and cries of alarm. A fire had broken out, and the entire village seemed to be enveloped in flames, which for



THE FORTRESS OF KÜKÜLLŐ, TRANSYLVANIA

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a long distance tinted rosily the wide expanse of snow, and in the midst of this terrible scene large hordes of wild Tartars, who frequently made incursions into Transylvania, were seen rushing to and fro with blazing torches, pillaging everywhere, dragging men in chains after them, and carrying away shrieking women in their arms.

Horror-struck by the spectacle, the small party barricaded themselves in, and prepared for their defence. It seemed a hopeless case to hold out against such a large number, but Bethlen and his friends were all resolute warriors. The Tartars appeared and laid siege to the house, but they were one after another struck down by the hail of bullets from the defenders. The attacks became more frequent, and, indeed, at one time it seemed as though they would force their way into the house, but each time they were repulsed by the besieged.

In the midst of all this excitement no one noticed János, who, having obtained leave from the Prince to take a holiday with his family, managed to slip away and cut a way through to Balázsfalva to seek assistance. In the meantime the position of the party had become desperate. They had exhausted their ammunition, and their swords were their sole means of defence. More than once, through the shattered windows, the Tartars attempted to make their way in, but each time they were slain by the brave defenders, and even Magda, hatchet in hand, resisted the entrance of the dreaded enemies.

At last, when every hope seemed to have vanished, and the roof of the house was in danger of being

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caught by the flames all around, and portions of the walls were giving way, suddenly a detachment of cavalry were seen approaching in the far distance. They galloped along with lightning rapidity; it seemed as though they were flying along in the air, and indeed in no time they were dashing through the plains of the burning village, carrying with them the blue, yellow, and red coloured banner of Transylvania. "God be praised," said the priest, who was one of Bethlen's party, as he saw them approaching, whilst the Tartars savagely turned to face them. The struggle was a short one. In a few moments the small detachment of well-trained horsemen, numbering barely fifty, broke through the Tartar ranks, and beneath their glittering swords numberless barbarians fell victims.

The leader of this small force, a young and dashing knight, whose face was hardly visible through his armour, seemed so anxious to reach the house of the besieged party, and made his way through the enemy with such lightning-like rapidity, that more than once he became detached from his men and was in danger of being captured, but the swift fall of his sword cleared the way, and in no time he and his force, who had caused such devastation in the Tartar ranks (who fled in confusion) were before the house of Bethlen's party. Here the young knight dismounted, and Bethlen immediately approached him and held out his hand, saying, "I greet you, young knight. You must know that I made a solemn vow, that whoever saved us from these dreadful Tartars, rich or poor, provided he be

A CROWN FOR LOVE

a knight and unmarried, should receive my daughter's hand ! ”

“ Thank you,” answered the knight, in a suppressed voice, “ I accept your offer,” and seeing Ilona standing by, trembling with fear and excitement, he took her hand tenderly and drew her to his breast.

Ilona, immediately upon his touch, became ghastly pale, and would have fallen fainting to the ground had it not been for his aid. The priest, Germyeszegi, was close upon the scene, and immediately upon recognising Apaffy, raised his hands in thankfulness to heaven, saying, “ May God bless this union ! ”

“ Amen ! ” said the young knight, doffing his helmet.

The disclosure of the Prince's identity caused great excitement, and Ilona, upon recognising him, cried out in joy and threw herself into his arms, saying, “ Oh ! Michael, is it really you ? ”

A few weeks later the marriage of Ilona Bethlen to Prince Apaffy II. was celebrated.

The marriage was one of great happiness, but it cost Apaffy his throne.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

CHAPTER VIII

THE HOUSE OF APAFFY

One of the oldest and mightiest families in Transylvania were the Apaffys, descendants from the same stock as the Rhédeys. One of their ancestors, George Apaffy, was a great adherent of King Zigismond (the rival King to Ferdinand I.), and accompanied him to Székesfehérvár, the ancient coronation city, to meet the Sultan when the occupation of Buda by the Turkish troops was decided upon.

But by far the most distinguished member of the family was Michael Apaffy, who was Prince of Transylvania from 1661 to 1690.

During the reign of George Rákóczy II., he, like Rhédey and Kemény, took part in the expedition to Poland, where he was captured by the Tartar Khan and was taken to the Crimea, his captors demanding such a heavy ransom that in spite of his great wealth and the sacrifices made by his wife, Anne Bornemisza, who pledged the family jewels, it took several years to pay the enormous sum demanded.

Michael Apaffy was the most respected man in Transylvania, of noble heart and great qualities, and, with it all, of a most modest and retiring disposition.

Though he never aspired to any power, yet he was, by the desire of the Sultan, placed upon the throne against Kemény, the actual prince.



THE BASTION OF MEDGYES, TRANSYLVANIA

THE HOUSE OF APAFFY

Of a peaceful disposition, Apaffy was not of a nature to take part in the intrigues of the period, an indispensable quality in those days to the occupant of the throne of Transylvania, which principality played such an important part in the balance of power between the mighty Ottoman and German Empires, which, for nearly 150 years tried their strength against each other in order to gain the supremacy over Hungary and the adjoining principalities.

On the other hand, in Michael Teleki he had a Chancellor of exceptional talent, a man of iron will, daring and cunning, who for a quarter of a century could play the dangerous game of friend or foe to the Sultan and the German Emperor without being suspected by either.

In carrying out this policy, which had for its aim a greater Transylvania, Teleki, who was a veritable Richelieu, had no consideration for anything or anybody. He would impeach his best friends or nearest relations for high treason, and bring about their death merely because they differed from his venturesome policy. Amongst his victims were Dénes Bánffy, a brother-in-law of Apaffy, and a connection of his, who was executed at his instigation, and the great noble Pál Béli, who was banished for ever from Hungary.

There were, however, two persons in the Principality who stood high in the councils of Apaffy, and more than once managed to foil the plans of Teleki. These were László Rhédey IV., son of the former Prince Rhédey referred to in the first part of this

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work, and Anne Bornemisza, the wife of Apaffy. The last-named lady, who belonged to a good old stock, and who by intermarriage with the Festitich family, laid the foundations of the fabulous wealth and splendour of that eminent house, was possessed of the rarest qualities, and was in every respect a true pattern of womanly virtue.

Her noble heart and mind imposed upon her the dutiful task of guarding her husband against the machinations of Teleki, and of rescuing those who were persecuted by him.

In this connection many are the stories told of this noble lady, one of which we shall relate later.

APAFFY'S POLICY

When Apaffy ascended the throne he had to choose between two masters: first, the mighty Sultan, to whom he owed his throne, and who was content to be recognised as a mere suzerain, exacting a nominal annual tribute without interfering with the religious constitution of the country; and, secondly, the German Emperor, who, as King of Hungary, claimed supremacy over Transylvania, and persecuted the Protestants alike, both in Hungary and his other dominions.

Apaffy, after endeavouring in vain to induce the Emperor to guarantee the rights of the Protestants, to which faith Apaffy and his country belonged, decided to throw in his lot with the Sultan. This brought him into constant collision with the German Emperor, and for a long time he supported Emeric

THE HOUSE OF APAFFY

Thököli, who rebelled against the Emperor and made himself master of the best part of Hungary and assumed the title of King. In the end, however, Apaffy was persuaded by his Chancellor, Michael Teleki, for reasons we shall give later, to desert the cause of Thököli and to withdraw his army to Transylvania.

This proved fatal not only to the Turks, but to Transylvania. The Turks having been defeated at Vienna and, as a result, having at a later period evacuated Buda, which they had held for 150 years, the German Emperor, having his hands free, sent a large army to Transylvania under Caraffa, arrested Apaffy, and forced the electors of the country to recognise his supremacy.

Apaffy, though still recognised ruler, died heart-broken in 1690. It was agreed that his son Apaffy, who was still a minor, should succeed to the throne, but this was never intended by the Emperor. Though he for a short period asserted his rights and ruled as Prince, he was ultimately expelled by the German troops.

Efforts were made later by Thököli and Ferencz Rákóczy II. to regain the independence of the country (to which reference is made elsewhere in these pages), but Transylvania ceased to be a principality for ever.

At the death of Apaffy II., in 1713, the successor of Apaffy I., the greater portion of the family possessions passed into the hands of the Bethlen family as the nearest relations of the house, and the direct descendants of the House of Aba.

Maurice Jókai, the immortal Hungarian writer,

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who so graphically describes the incidents in Transylvanian history in what he calls the "Golden Period," has many interesting stories in connection with Apaffy's reign, one of which, relating to Apaffy's election as Prince, in abridged form reads somewhat as follows :—

COMPELLED TO BE PRINCE

Ever since his return from the Tartar captivity, Apaffy, in accordance with the promise given to his wife, had retired from public life, living quietly at his country estate of Ebesfalva.

A year had just gone by since his return, and a great family event gladdened the household of Apaffy, the birth of a son and heir, which event was celebrated with great rejoicing by his tenantry.

In the midst of this revelry a detachment of Turkish horse were seen approaching, and to the consternation of the revellers, halted in front of the castle of Apaffy, the leader claiming admission in the name of the Sultan.

Apaffy's retainers, fearing that this might mean some evil to their master—for in those days the appearance of the Sultan's troops in the interior of Transylvania meant no blessing to the country, or to the person to whom they were despatched—tried to deny his presence, but in vain, for the commander declared that they had positive information that Apaffy was at Ebesfalva, and they insisted on being taken to him.

Apaffy, too, felt rather uneasy when he was

COMPELLED TO BE PRINCE

informed of the appearance of the Turkish soldiers, but he had no alternative but to give instructions for the admission of their leader.

The latter, in the name of Ali Pasha, the Commander-in-Chief of the Turkish garrison, delivered a message in which Apaffy was asked to accompany him to the Turkish headquarters at Kis Selyk.

Apaffy, who could not explain the meaning of it all, demurred, and pleaded that he could not very well depart, as his wife was in a delicate state of health; but in vain, the Aga declaring that he had instructions not to dare to return without being accompanied by Apaffy.

In the meantime, Apaffy's wife, the beautiful Anna, having heard that the Turkish soldiers had come to fetch her husband, left her apartment and, pale with fear, came to ascertain the reason of their presence.

Apaffy endeavoured to pacify her, and explained that there was not the slightest cause for her to be alarmed, as it only meant that the Pasha wished to see him about imposing upon him some further taxes. With this and other excuses he tried to console her, but in vain; the beautiful wife, who loved her husband with all the warmth of her heart, would not be pacified, saying that she had some presentiment that she would never see him again.

Apaffy kissed his wife most tenderly, and said to her, "My dear wife, you don't feel well; doubtless that is the cause of your gloomy thoughts. Don't be alarmed, there is not the slightest reason for any uneasiness. I have not done anything to

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cause the anger of the Sultan. Nevertheless, it would not be wise for me to disobey his command, so I had better go to the Turkish headquarters ; but I shall be back in a day or two." Saying this, he tenderly embraced her and made ready to depart, but though he pretended to treat the matter with indifference, he was uneasy in his mind as to the real intentions of the Sultan, and the reason why his presence was requested by Ali Pasha.

That same evening Apaffy arrived at the Turkish headquarters, and though it was late in the night he was immediately conducted to the tent of the Commander-in-Chief, who received him with all due civility.

He informed him that his master the Sultan had resolved upon the removal from the throne of Kemény, who dared to oppose his authority, and desired to raise him instead to that dignity as one of those who commanded the respect of the entire people of the Transylvanian Principality.

"To place me upon the throne," said Apaffy, in a tone of surprise. "Surely, Pasha, you must be joking?" "No, not at all," answered the Pasha. "It is the wish of the mighty Sultan, at whose word of command rebellious princes will be enslaved, and others more worthy of high favours, like yourself, will be called upon to fill their places."

Apaffy demurred and explained that he was not worthy of such a high position ; besides, János Kemény, the actual prince, had a large following in the country, and it would be no easy matter to oust him from the throne.



NAGYSZEBEN (TRANSYLVANIA)

COMPELLED TO BE PRINCE

To this Ali Pasha replied, "Leave that matter to me"; and as Apaffy still continued to make excuses that he was not the proper person to fulfil the duties that would devolve on the ruler of the Principality, Ali Pasha seems to have lost his patience, and, in a tone of anger, said, "It is useless your protesting, for I have told you distinctly it is the wish of my master, the Sultan, that you shall be Prince. You need not worry yourself about Kemény, or anyone else, as long as you have the high favour of my august master."

Apaffy shrugged his shoulders and silently reflected, and the thought came to him that after all his wife was right when she said that she had a presentiment that some great danger was threatening him.

The Pasha, however, soon roused him from his reverie, saying to him, "There is no time to be lost; you must issue a manifesto at once to the electors of Transylvania and summon them to a Diet, so that the necessary formalities for your installation shall take place without any further delay."

"But," protested Apaffy, "who am I that I should arrogate to myself the right to issue a manifesto to the people of Transylvania? And who is likely to answer my summons? People will laugh at me and think I have become mad, for, after all, I am but an insignificant person amongst the great nobles of the country."

"If the people will think as you say, they will soon see that they are the fools and not you," answered the Pasha.

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Still hesitating, Apaffy replied, "If it is really your intention that the people of Transylvania should respond to my call, it is useless my sending a manifesto, for with the exception of the Székely population, they are all loyal to Kemény, and I doubt even if they would take the least notice of my summons, for I don't belong to their country, and I am but little known to them."

"Never mind," said the Pasha, "you had better lose no time and issue your manifesto. They are sure to come if they have common sense, and the rest of the country will soon follow their lead."

"Supposing they do come," said Apaffy, "where am I to hold the Diet, which alone can give a legal status to the Prince of the country? At Kolozsvár my brother-in-law, Dénes Bánffy, is all-powerful and he is my sworn enemy; whilst at Szeben, Kemény himself is omnipotent."

"Why not convene the Assembly here?" answered the Pasha.

Hearing this, Apaffy, in spite of the awkward position in which he found himself, could not help bursting into laughter, and with great astonishment said, "Where could one hold a Diet here in this village? Why, there is not a single house which would hold even thirty persons."

"There is the church," said the Pasha; "it will hold any number of people. If it is good enough to worship your God in, it is good enough to hold there the Assembly of the nation."

Apaffy seemed to be perplexed at the inventive mind of the Pasha. He saw it was useless to make



SCENE AT BRASSO, TRANSYLVANIA

COMPELLED TO BE PRINCE

any further excuses, as the Pasha was too shrewd for him.

He was, however, pondering in his mind whether there was any chance for him to escape where he would be out of reach, and thus put an end to the comedy of submitting to be elected Prince.

The cunning Pasha evidently seemed to have read his thoughts; he was not going to be outwitted, and therefore, without giving Apaffy further chance to make other objections, he held before him a large piece of parchment and, handing him the pen and ink, said, "Time is getting on, and you must be tired also from your long journey, so you had better write out the manifesto at once."

With a great sigh and trembling hand Apaffy took the pen in hand, and, thinking that the Pasha would not understand a word of it, as it was in Hungarian, commenced the document with the preamble that it was never his desire to seek the position of prince, of which he knew he was unworthy, but as it was the desire of the Sultan that he should do so, he felt compelled to address himself to the electors of Transylvania, relying however on their wisdom, inasmuch as the Sultan had absolutely made up his mind to remove Kemény from the throne, to confer the dignity on one more worthy than himself to be elected to this exalted position.

The Pasha, who, however, during his long stay in Hungary had become conversant with that language, in glancing at the document, became furious, saying, "What is the good of all this nonsense?"

THE HOUSE OF TECK

You had better write in a short and decisive manner. I will dictate to you :—

“ We, Michael Apaffy, Prince of Transylvania by the grace of the Sultan, under pain and penalty command you to appear before us at Kis Selyk.”

Seeing that it was useless to try and get out of the affair, Apaffy had no alternative but to write the manifesto, and with a heavy sigh dropped the pen. The Pasha immediately handed the document to his orderly, with directions that it was to be at once despatched to its destination, and also instructed him to allot comfortable quarters to Apaffy, who was to remain with him pending his confirmation by the electors as Prince of Transylvania.

“ What ! ” said Apaffy. “ Am I to remain here all this time until the people put it into their heads to come here in answer to my summons ? Surely this is not fair to me ? Let me go back to my wife, and when the time has arrived for the holding of the Diet, I will return here.”

“ Let you go so that you escape from accepting the position of Prince of Transylvania,” said the Pasha. “ No ! I am not fool enough to do that. I know you Hungarians too well for that. Those whom we do not care for, pester our lives with their desire to become princes, whilst others of your kind wish to escape their responsibilities. No, Prince Apaffy, for this is the title that you will bear in the future at the command of my master the Sultan, you shall not leave my headquarters until your election has been confirmed by the Diet, which I shall take good care shall take place here without the least delay.”

COMPELLED TO BE PRINCE

Saying this he personally conducted Apaffy to his purple tent, such as only people of sovereign rank are wont to occupy, and at the same time gave instructions to his officers to keep the strictest guard upon him, and prevent him from escaping from the Turkish headquarters.

Apaffy had a most restless night, pondering in his mind what all this would lead to. Why force him to be a prince when he preferred his simple country life in the company of his beloved wife, from whom he had been separated for several years by his enforced captivity in the Crimea. His only hope was that no one would respond to his summons to attend a Diet for his election, which would convince the Sultan that he had to look elsewhere for the successor of Kemény, if he wished to remove him from the throne of Transylvania. With this happy thought he closed his eyes in the early hours of morn.

A few days after this event, whilst Apaffy was quietly resting, he was suddenly disturbed by the appearance at his tent of a great number of the Székely nobles, who were anxious to pay him their respects.

"In the name of Heaven what has brought you here?" said Apaffy.

"Why, it was your Highness who commanded our presence," said Nalácz, one of the magnates.

"Yes, yes," said Apaffy, "but you ought to have had the common sense not to have come."

"Never mind," answered Count Kun, "we are here now, and we have made up our minds to

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perform the ceremony of your election and inauguration as our Prince."

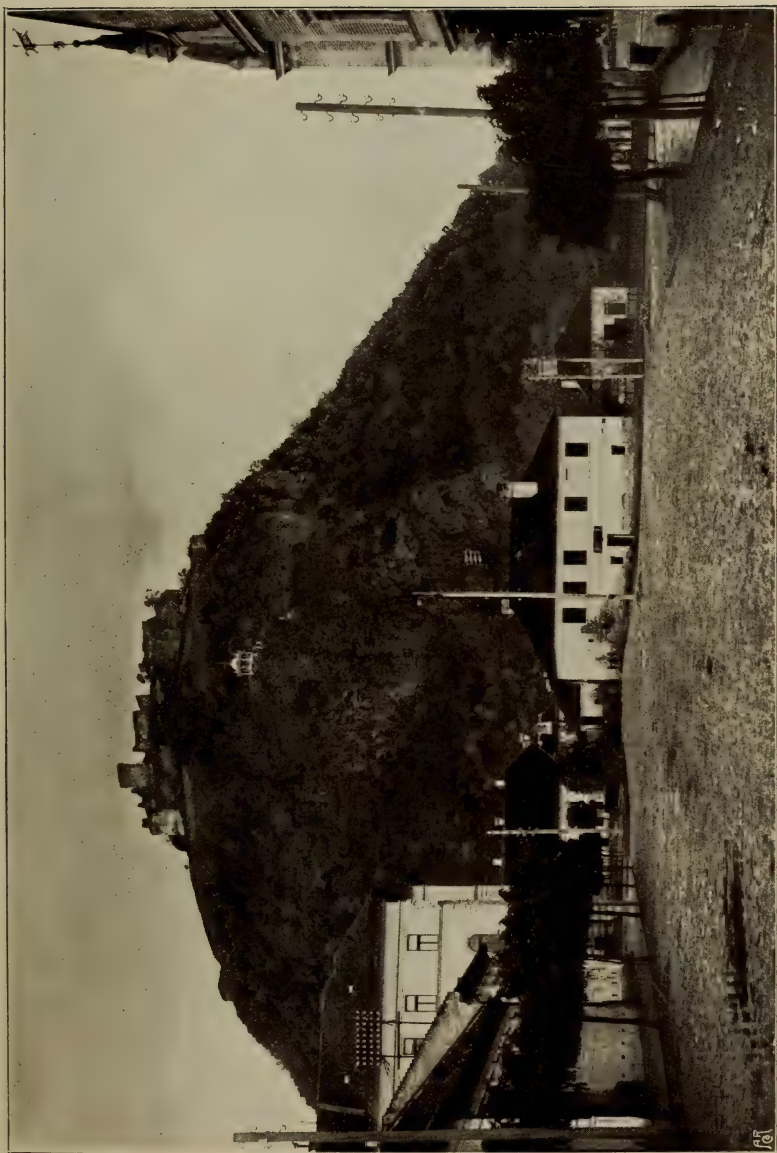
"You are not numerous enough for that, my friends," said Apaffy.

"Are we not," promptly replied Nalácz; and, saying this, he drew aside the curtain which barred the entrance of the tent, and pointed at the large array of Székely nobles who were drawn up in front of the tent waiting to pay homage to their Prince-elect, and catching a glimpse of him they loudly cheered, proclaiming him their Prince. Apaffy was amazed to see such a large number of nobles responding to his summons, but in his heart he really wished they had not come.

He addressed them and begged them to reconsider their decision, and explained to them his position, his unfitness to occupy such an exalted position, but in vain; they one and all enthusiastically demanded his election, and before he had time to look round he was picked up and carried upon the shoulders of the people to the Protestant church, where all the dignitaries were already assembled in order to perform the ceremony of his election and installation as Prince.

In spite of his protests to be relieved of the high honour the memorable Assembly of Kis Selyk held in the parish church, by a unanimous vote and accompanied by much ceremony, proclaimed Apaffy as their Prince.

Just as he was leaving the church his brother István came to meet him. He had arrived from Ebesfalva too late to be present at the ceremony.



THE FORTRESS OF DÉVA, TRANSYLVANIA

COMPELLED TO BE PRINCE

Apaffy, without giving him a chance to congratulate him on his election, enquired after his wife, and whether she was aware of his election as Prince.

“Yes,” answered István, “and she thinks no better choice could be made, as she feels sure you will make a good ruler”; but he added laughingly, “If you are not careful, the good lady will not only rule her husband, but also Transylvania.”

“I am sure,” retorted Apaffy, “that no better or wiser ruler could be found in this Principality, and with her assistance I feel I shall be able to perform the duties that have devolved upon me as Prince of Transylvania.”

After the inauguration ceremony, Apaffy proceeded to Segesvár with the determination that now he had accepted the title of prince he would use his utmost endeavours to oust his rival.

His partisans increased all along the road, and he had no trouble in occupying the fort. Day by day the number of his adherents was swelled by the fierce and warlike Széklers, who were thirsting for a fight. In addition, two thousand Turkish horsemen, under the leadership of Kucsek Pasha, arrived to reinforce him.

Whilst this was happening, Kemény was busy feasting and entertaining a large number of his friends and adherents at Nagyszeben, comprising the flower of the Transylvanian nobility, the Bethlen brothers, Pál Béldi, Csáky, and Dénes Bánffy, the brother-in-law of Apaffy.

On hearing the news that Apaffy was set up as a rival prince, Kemény made light of the whole affair,

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and, trusting to the bravery of his large army, of which ten thousand men were ready to start at a moment's notice, he thought he would not have the slightest trouble in bringing Apaffy to reason. Some of those present, however, were of a different opinion; and that they were right we shall soon see. A few days afterwards the two opposing forces met at Nagy Sözlős, some hours from Segesvár.

There, a desperate struggle took place between the well-equipped army of Kemény and the small but brave and resolute Székely horsemen and their Turkish allies. In spite of the superior numbers of Kemény's forces, Apaffy's adherents carried the day, and Kemény, bravely fighting, was slain by his adversary, Feriz Bey, the youthful son of Kucsek Pasha, whose name we shall meet in a later portion of this book.

Apaffy, after this victory, proceeded to Kolozsvár, where his brother-in-law, Dénes Bánffy, as Lord Lieutenant, was supreme. Bánffy, however, was a sworn enemy of Apaffy, and was not disposed to hand over the capital of the country, but ultimately he changed his mind in this respect, and Apaffy, after defeating some of the partisans of Kemény's son, became undisputed ruler of the Principality.

His reign was the longest of any prince in Transylvania. He proved a true father to his people, and although at times he allowed himself to be influenced by those about him, he was ever ready to listen to the wise counsels of his gifted wife, who watched over his acts with true and affectionate care, both in his own interest and in those of his people.

THE HOUSE OF APAFFY

PRINCESS APAFFY AND THE SULTAN'S AMBASSADOR

Another of Jókai's stories is related of the Princess Apaffy. One day the Princess of Moldavia sought refuge at the Court of Apaffy. It appeared that her husband, who, as a vassal of the Sultan, was fighting on the side of the Turks against the Germans, was the cause of the defeat of the Turkish troops. The Pasha of Buda had ordered his arrest in order that he might be taken to Constantinople, and there to receive his punishment—in those days, death.

The Prince managed to escape to Poland, but before doing so he sent his wife for safety to Transylvania, where he felt sure she would be hospitably received by Apaffy. The Pasha, infuriated by the escape of the Moldavian Prince, wished to carry out his vengeance on his beautiful wife, and caused the Sultan's envoy to be sent to Apaffy and demand her instant surrender.

Apaffy, of course, demurred ; in fact, he declared it would be inconsistent with his honour to deliver up to him an innocent woman through a fault committed by her husband. The envoy thereupon became insolent, and declared that unless his demand was complied with, his all-powerful master the Sultan would bring about his removal from the throne.

Apaffy's consort, who was present at the interview, hearing this, burst out with anger and said to her husband, " I would rather you lost your throne than consent to such an inhuman act as to deliver this

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poor innocent Princess into the hands of her enemies"; and, turning to the Sultan's envoy, said, "As to you, sir, you had better go back and tell your master that he may command his Janissaries, or men of your type, who, in their younger days, before they were initiated into the secrets of diplomacy, were camel drivers, but he will not compel the Prince of Transylvania, an Apaffy, to commit such an unchivalrous act, one so inconsistent with his honour, as you demand."

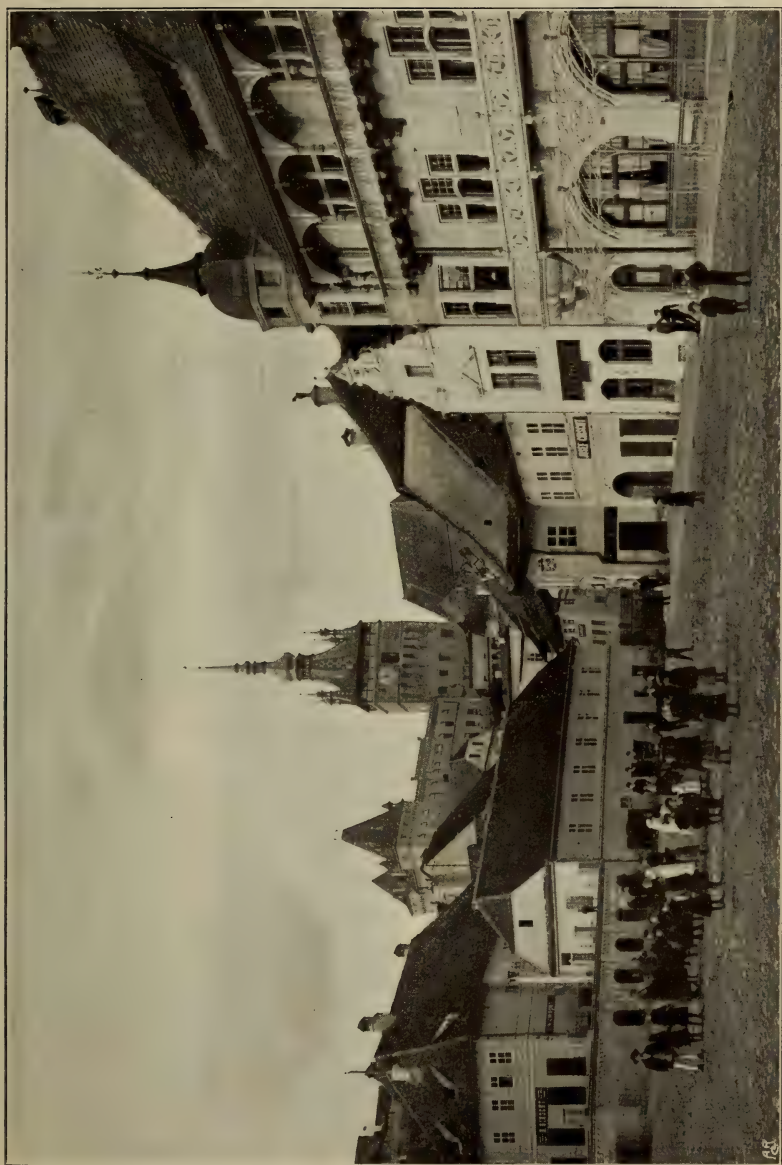
So overcome was the Turkish envoy by the Princess's eloquence that he persuaded the Pasha to forego his vengeance.

APAFFY'S COURT JESTER

Here is another story related by the same writer in connection with another princess of the Apaffy family.

Apaffy had a court jester who, like his kind, had the great gift of making others believe (even his shrewd master Teleki) that he was a fool, and he was allowed to come and go where he willed, the greatest secrets of State being discussed in his presence without the slightest fear or suspicion that he was likely to divulge them to anyone.

Women, as a rule, have a greater gift of judging men than their own sex, and the Princess was, perhaps, the only person at the Court who had discovered the sagacity of the jester. She made an ally of him, and in this way came to know many of the State secrets, which even her husband thought necessary to keep from her.



SEGESVÁR, TRANSYLVANIA

THE HOUSE OF APAFFY

One day the court jester rushed into the apartments of the Princess and communicated to her that Teleki had been urging in the council chamber the execution of the great noble Pál Béldi, who was then kept in prison at the castle of Küküllő, on a charge of conspiracy to dethrone Apaffy, and although the Prince had at first refused to sign the warrant, in the end he was persuaded to do so.

The Princess, having been convinced that Béldi was innocent of this accusation, which was merely invented by Teleki to rid himself of his great opponent, sat down instantly and wrote a hasty note addressed to the acting governor of the castle of Küküllő, in which, in her capacity as Hon. Governor of the castle, she made him personally responsible for the safety of Béldi. Once the letter was despatched by a special messenger, she said to the court jester, "Now you return quickly to the council chamber, watch the messenger who is likely to be sent with the decree ordering the execution of Béldi, and by some means or other you must try and detain him, so that he does not reach the castle at Küküllő, before the arrival of my messenger.

"If by means of your trickery you can get hold of the decree itself and manage to destroy it, all the better, but under all circumstances you must invent some plan whereby you can detain the messenger for some time, so that mine has a long start in front of him. Now hearken, and remember the life of a noble man and the happiness of a wife and daughter are in your hands."

"Gracious mistress," answered the jester quickly,

THE HOUSE OF TECK

“by the sacred art of my calling I promise you that your wishes shall be obeyed, and I will do all in my power to save the unfortunate family from destruction.” Whilst saying this a pleasing smile passed over his countenance, betraying a happy thought which had just been born in his mind, and in a low whisper, as if afraid to be betrayed by some one who might by chance overhear their conversation, he said to the Princess, “Thank Heaven, who inspired me with this thought,” and, continuing, he said, “Give me, gracious lady, one of your envelopes bearing the princely arms, addressed to the Governor of the castle of Küküllő. There need be no writing; a blank sheet of notepaper folded inside is all I want. Now seal it down, gracious lady, just like the letter which you have despatched to the Governor, and hand me the envelope, and I believe I can be trusted to do the rest.”

He quickly took the envelope which the Princess handed to him, placed it in his pocket, and without losing a single moment was rushing along the vaulted corridor on his way to the council chamber.

Chance would have it that just at the moment he reached the castle yard leading to the council chamber a mounted messenger galloped up towards the entrance gate, and dismounting from his horse swiftly took up a position near the gate. The jester, suspecting that he might be the messenger likely to be despatched to the castle of Küküllő with the warrant of Béldi's execution, advanced towards him in the usual silly way fools generally do, and after asking some idle questions and amusing him

APAFFY'S COURT JESTER

by showing some of his tricks, he got to know from him that he was about to start with certain instructions to the Governor of the castle of Küküllő.

At that moment a high Government official was seen to approach, and handed the messenger a letter carefully sealed down, just like the envelope we have seen the jester place in his pocket, and impressing upon him the urgency of his errand, he quickly departed. As the messenger was about to mount his horse, the jester snatched the letter from his hand, and before the latter had time to realise his loss, the jester exchanged it for the one he had ready for the purpose.

The same afternoon two messengers arrived in quick succession at the castle of Küküllő. The first delivered the letter of the Princess Apaffy in which the Governor was requested to see that on no account should any harm befall Pál Béldi, whilst the second messenger was from Michael Teleki, declaring that he held a warrant for the execution of Pál Béldi.

The Acting Governor was perplexed, and paused to consider the awkwardness of the position. As Governor of the fort, Princess Apaffy had a right to have her orders obeyed, and, besides, he was in sympathy with Pál Béldi, and would like to have been the means of saving his life ; on the other hand, he knew what it meant to disregard the order of Teleki.

After reflecting for a while he broke the seal and opened the envelope which Teleki's messenger handed him, and much was his joy when he found there was nothing inside but a blank sheet of paper.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

He playfully tapped the man on the shoulder and said to him, "Your superiors have played the April fool with you ; there is no order inside this envelope for Béldi's execution, but a mere blank sheet of paper. You had better return home and say no more about the affair."

The following day, at the request of the Princess, Apaffy rescinded the order made against Pál Béldi, and issued another whereby he was banished from Hungary. Pál Béldi eventually died in exile in Turkey.



COUNT SAMUEL TELEKI (1739-1782)
THE FOUNDER OF THE TELEKI LIBRARY AT MAROS VÁSARHELY
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CHAPTER IX

THE TELEKI FAMILY

As this family has been so closely related with the House of Rhédey and its various branches, and has also given to Transylvania its greatest chancellor, Michael Teleki, it next claims our attention. The family descends from the same stock as did Elizabeth, the wife of the immortal hero, John Hunyady, and mother of King Matthias.

The present head of the family is Count Samu Teleki, the great sportsman and explorer, whose daring and adventurous expeditions into the interior regions of East Africa, and the many discoveries made by him, will for ever perpetuate his memory.

Count Teleki, in 1886, fitted out a large expedition and, starting from Zanzibar in the company of his countryman, Louis Höhnel, penetrated British East Africa as far as Kilimanjaro, and reached a point never yet attained by any previous explorer. Returning to Zanzibar, he fitted out another expedition in the same year, and starting with a caravan of two hundred and fifty men, reached Mount Kenea, climbing and exploring the unknown regions as far as Lake Baringo. Advancing still further, he discovered two lakes, which he named after the late Crown Prince Rudolph and his consort, Princess Stephanie.

In the proximity of these lakes he also came

THE HOUSE OF TECK

across a volcanic mountain, which his companion Höhnel named the Teleki volcano. Count Samu Teleki was a personal friend of the late Prince Rudolph, who often paid him visits at his estates in Transylvania, and Teleki accompanied the Prince on many of his travels.

Among the recent members of the family were Count Géza Teleki, an important member of the Tisza Cabinet in 1875.

One of the wealthiest of the Telekis was Count Sándor Teleki, a man of considerable influence in his country. His daughter became the wife of Count Khuen-Héderváry, the present Prime Minister of Hungary, a man possessed of great capacities and of high principles. He is a most trusted friend of the Emperor-King, who places in him the utmost confidence. His son, Count Alexander Khuen-Héderváry, is attached to the Austro-Hungarian Embassy in London.

Another Teleki, also Sándor by name, made himself conspicuous during the last century by fighting not only in the Hungarian War of Independence of 1848—and had a miraculous escape from being captured and hanged—but he subsequently took part in the Carlist and Garibaldi campaigns. During his residence in England he married an English lady, and ultimately, after eighteen years' absence, he returned to his native country.

But many of the Telekis were possessed of a spirit of adventure, and the patriotism of their women is proverbial, several of them being tried before court-martial in 1848 for participating in the



HIS EXCELLENCY COUNT SAMU TELEKI

THE TELEKI FAMILY

national cause. Amongst these should be mentioned Countess Blanka Teleki, who was brought before a military tribunal in the year 1853 and was condemned to ten years' imprisonment, and was only liberated after she had undergone half of her sentence.

As one of the founders of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1827, together with Count Stephen Széchényi, Count József Teleki will for ever be gratefully remembered by the Hungarian nation. He presented to the Academy a library of 24,000 volumes and endowed it with a large sum. A grandfather of his (also called József) founded a large library and valuable museum.

It would be impossible in this sketch to deal with the long line of Telekis who, through three centuries, have gained eminence as diplomatists, historians, poets, soldiers, and benefactors to their country. Amongst these a place of honour should be given to Count Adam Teleki, who, in the eighteenth century, raised a regiment of his own for the defence of the great Queen Maria Theresia, 1745, and was promoted by her to the rank of General. He became known as a great writer, under the pseudonym "Corneille Cidje." And so name after name follows, each attaining a high position in the State and in literature and science ; Count Domakos Teleki II., who, towards the end of the eighteenth century, published several works ; Count Ferencz Teleki, a poet of considerable renown in the early part of the nineteenth century ; and Count Samu Teleki, a man of great learning, who founded the Teleki family library at Maros Vásárhely, upon

THE HOUSE OF TECK

which he expended the sum of £80,000, which already in 1816 comprised over 40,000 volumes.

MICHAEL TELEKI

But by far the most distinguished member of the family, the one who established the glory of the house, was Michael Teleki, the great Chancellor to Prince Apaffy, who, as has been previously mentioned in these pages, played for twenty years such a skilful part in preserving the independence of the Principality against both Turks and Germans.

During the many years of Apaffy's reign, Teleki persuaded him to recognise the Sultan as suzerain, seeing that the Turkish power was waning, and he had nothing to fear in that direction, but after the defeat of the Turks at Vienna in 1683, he thought it best to shake off the Turkish tutelage and to come to terms with the Emperor Leopold for the preservation of the independence of Transylvania.

So pleased was the latter at this, that as a result he sent a mission in 1685 to Prince Apaffy, guaranteeing to him the independence of the country if he would enter into an alliance with him.

This would have been a masterpiece of diplomacy on the part of Teleki had the Emperor intended to keep his promise, but this was not the case, for after the recapture of Buda in 1686 from the Turks, the Emperor, feeling sufficiently powerful to dictate terms to Apaffy, sent a large army to Transylvania under Caraffa with the object of bringing into submission the country. By this time Teleki was already



NAGY-ENYED, TRANSYLVANIA
(OLD FORT AND CHURCH)

MICHAEL TELEKI

Governor-General, and Apaffy, distressed at the death of his wife and the political turn of events, retired to his castle at Fogaras and placed all the power into the hands of Teleki.

Being threatened with reprisals by the Austrian general, he had no other alternative but to counsel Apaffy to recognise the overlordship of the Emperor, to which Apaffy reluctantly consented, and thus remained Prince till 1690, when he died; but, as a matter of fact, Teleki, who was appointed a general by the Emperor, in reality was the practical ruler.

The death of Apaffy in 1690, however, brought disaster to Teleki, for the Sultan, trying to reassert his former influence in Transylvania, instead of recognising Apaffy II., the young son of Michael Apaffy, as the successor to the throne, appointed Emeric Thököli, the great Hungarian hero, as Prince of Transylvania, and lent him a large army for the invasion of the Principality. This greatly alarmed Teleki. There was a long-standing feud between Teleki and Thököli, which had a far-reaching influence on the critical fortunes that the country was plunged in, and tended in the end to cause its fall.

THE TELEKI AND THÖKÖLI FEUD

Teleki had a very pretty daughter, Flora, who became engaged to Thököli, one of the handsomest and most daring men that could be found in Hungary or Transylvania. Thököli had a dream of seeing those two countries liberated from the German rule,

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and placed himself at the head of a movement for the expulsion of the Habsburg dynasty from his country; and, indeed, at one time was master of the whole of Upper Hungary, and the Sultan nominated him as King. One day, however, Thököli chanced to come across the young widow of Francis Rákóczy I., better known in history as Ilona Zrinyi, to whom we shall have so often occasion to refer, and who was a connection of the Rhédey family. Ilona Zrinyi championed his cause, and, above all, she was very beautiful. Thököli was captivated by her and broke his engagement with Flora Teleki, and proposed to and married Ilona Zrinyi. From that moment Teleki became the open enemy of Thököli, and induced Apaffy to deprive him of his vast possessions under the pretence that he was endeavouring to raise himself to the throne of Transylvania.

The loss of Apaffy's support caused Thököli's defeat in Hungary, and he had to take refuge in Turkey. When the Turks decided upon the bombardment of Vienna he returned again, and attacked the German forces in Hungary whilst the former were besieged by the Turks, his wife, Ilona Zrinyi, in the meantime keeping off the German forces for a long time at Munkács. In the end, however, Thököli was defeated, and had again to take refuge in Turkey, his wife having previously been taken a prisoner to Vienna. As stated in a previous page, he was now once more on his way to invade Transylvania with a Hungarian army, aided by a number of Turks.

THÖKÖLI IMITATES HANNIBAL

Teleki, upon hearing the news of Thököli's proposed invasion, warned Heiszler, the famous German commander-in-chief, who was in charge of the imperial forces in Transylvania, of the imminent danger. Heiszler, a haughty old warrior, who did not know what defeat meant, laughed at the idea that any foe could force its way to Transylvania through the different passes which gave access to the country, and which were strongly guarded.

"A Thököli can do anything," was the answer of Teleki.

"Then," retorted Heiszler, "he would need to have the wings of a bird or the daring of a Hannibal."

That Teleki had real cause for anxiety and that Heiszler was right in comparing Thököli to Hannibal we shall soon see, for whilst Heiszler's large army was distributed about the numerous passes which guard Transylvania against the principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia, where Thököli's main forces could be seen in large numbers from the heights of the Transylvanian Alps, Thököli himself, accompanied by the Turkish officer, Feriz Bey, whose acquaintance we have already made whilst a youth of fourteen, finding all the mountain passes and approaches strongly guarded by the Germans, who made the country inaccessible, the two warriors, both equal in daring and heroism, devised a plan to scale the dizzy heights and dangerous precipices of the gigantic Snow Alps. They managed to take across the passes an army of several thousand men and led them into the heart of Transylvania. Their sudden and unexpected appearance struck

THE HOUSE OF TECK

terror and the greatest confusion amongst the ranks of the large German army scattered over the numerous mountain passes, where they were watching for the enemy's arrival, leaving the heart of the country in an almost defenceless state.

In the fierce battle which ensued, Teleki was killed by Feriz Bey, whilst Heiszler was made prisoner and was exchanged for Ilona Zrinyi, the heroic wife of Thököli, who, as we have said, was captured by the Germans four years previously and kept in prison in Vienna. In the end, however, Thököli was defeated, and took refuge with his wife, Ilona Zrinyi, in Turkey, where they remained till their death at Rodosto.

CHAPTER X

FRANCIS RÁKÓCZY II.

With the exile of Thököli and his wife Ilona, the family star of the Zrinyis and Rákóczys, which had shone so brilliantly for centuries over the horizon encircling the Hungarian soil, was not allowed to vanish, and indeed it rose with still greater splendour in the person of Francis Rákóczy II., the last representative of these two illustrious houses, both of which were related to Her Majesty's Hungarian ancestors.

Francis Rákóczy II., who as a mere youth of twelve had already aided his mother in the defence of the fort of Munkács against the Germans, was captured, together with his mother, and taken as a prisoner to Austria, where he was brought up under the *ægis* of the Court, in a Jesuit college.

When he grew up he married a princess of the House of Hesse, and his captors, thinking that he was by now sufficiently imbued with German ideas, allowed him to return to Hungary, and the larger portion of his estates were restored to him.

Francis Rákóczy, however, soon proved that even the tuition of the Jesuits had not been able to extinguish in him the burning fire of patriotism, which was a sacred family inheritance of the Zrinyis and the Rákóczys.

Soon after his return to Hungary, in 1701, he

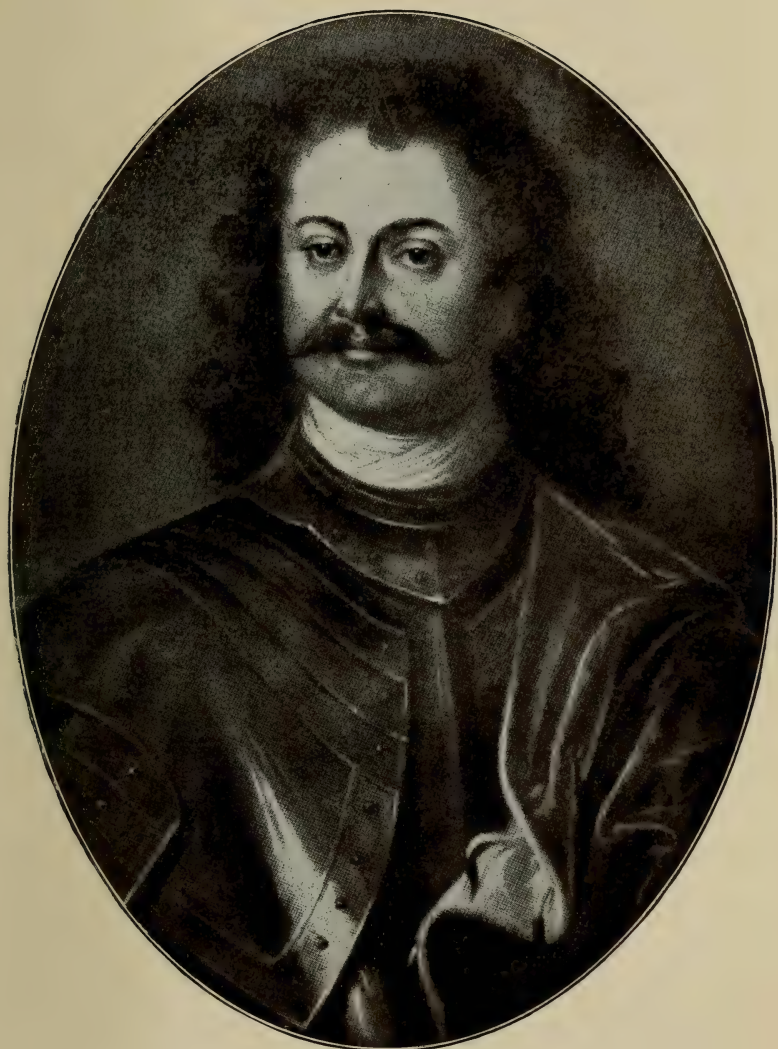
THE HOUSE OF TECK

placed himself at the head of a revolution, which was partly owing to the persecution of the Hungarians and the Protestants. They desired to dethrone the Habsburg dynasty, and also insisted upon the restoration of the Principality of Transylvania, to which Rákóczy laid claim. The revolution failed, and Rákóczy was captured and again taken as a prisoner to Vienna, whence, however, he escaped and took refuge in Poland.

He returned to Hungary in 1703, and commencing the revolution with only two hundred and fifty men, he soon gathered under his banner thousands of patriots, who captured fort after fort and occupied the whole of Upper Hungary as far as Transylvania.

In another direction they advanced towards the Austrian territory and bombarded Vienna. The German troops, having then been employed in a war with France over the Spanish Succession, the Emperor Leopold became alarmed and sued for peace, but nothing came of it, and in 1705, at the time of the death of the Emperor, the best part of the country was in the hands of Rákóczy, who even went so far as to issue coins with the words "Pro Libertate" engraved on them.

When the Emperor Joseph I. (1705-1711) ascended the throne he saw the necessity of coming to terms with Rákóczy, and offered to re-establish the Hungarian laws and procedure, but the Hungarians, who were then so victorious against the German troops, would not listen to any proposition. The English Ambassador was asked to see Rákóczy to induce him to make peace; and Rákóczy's wife,



FRANCIS RÁKÓCZY II.

RÁKÓCZY'S HEROISM

who was an Austrian captive, was liberated. The Emperor also offered him a dukedom if he signed the peace. But Rákóczy replied, "I am not fighting for myself, but the freedom of Hungary, and the separation of Transylvania from that country."

The Emperor was willing to grant every freedom to Hungary, but would not listen to the separation of Transylvania. As a result the dethronement of the Habsburg dynasty was decided upon by the adherents of Rákóczy, who was declared "King of Hungary and Prince of Transylvania."

Rákóczy was also offered the throne of Poland, but refused to accept it until he had fulfilled his mission to Hungary. The Emperor begged for peace several times, and promised to grant freedom to Hungary, but Rákóczy, relying upon the support promised by Louis XIV. and Peter I., the Czar of Russia, refused to entertain the offer unless the Powers would guarantee it, to which the Emperor objected. At last Rákóczy's wheel of fortune turned. A large number of his adherents, including the Commander-in-Chief, Károlyi, becoming tired of the constant struggle, lent a willing ear to the peace proposals of the Emperor, which had for its result the conclusion of the Treaty of Szatmár, whereby the constitutional rights of Hungary and the freedom of the Protestants were guaranteed, and an amnesty was proclaimed also to all political offenders. The terms of the treaty, however, did not quite satisfy Rákóczy, and rather than submit thereto and accept the amnesty offered to him he left Hungary.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

His first place of exile was Poland, where he started his agitation for the restoration of the Principality of Transylvania. Both Louis XIV. and the Czar held out hopes to him, and Lord Raby, afterwards Lord Strafford, who was then the British Ambassador in Berlin and was known for his pronounced sympathies with Hungary, promised Rákóczy's envoys to exert his influence on his behalf with his Government.

Rákóczy's hopes, however, were soon shattered by the holding of the Peace Congress at Utrecht, where, in spite of the efforts of Lord Strafford and some other representatives of the great Powers, notably France, the discussion of the restoration of the Principality of Transylvania was eliminated at an early stage from the programme of the Congress.

Now follows his sad exile, so ably described from the diaries of the hero himself by the eminent Hungarian, Professor Sándor Márki, in his recently-published "Life of Ferencz Rákóczy,"* in which quite an unknown chapter in his life is revealed, referring to his short stay in England and the friendly attitude of Queen Anne towards this great hero.

QUEEN ANNE'S SYMPATHY WITH RÁKÓCZY

It appears that Rákóczy, in spite of his having been in alliance with Louis XIV., with whom England was on a war footing at the time,

* (Magyar Történeti Életrajzok.) "II. Rákóczy Ferencz," Dr. Sándor Márki.

RÁKÓCZY'S STAY IN ENGLAND

nevertheless enjoyed all along the sympathy of Queen Anne, who, on more than one occasion, interested herself on his behalf. Finding that there was no chance of the restoration of his Principality, she endeavoured at least to see that his confiscated estates should be given back to him. England had no representative at Dantzic, where Rákóczy was in exile, but during his stay in the Polish city the Queen sent a diplomatic envoy there, so that she might be in touch with him and give him timely warning should his stay in Poland be fraught with danger. The opportunity presented itself very soon, for after the decision of the Utrecht Congress the Polish Government instructed Rákóczy that they could not any longer guarantee his personal safety. Rákóczy's first intention was to take ship for France, but during this troublous period in which so many countries were involved, no ship was safe to enter Dantzic. It was just at this moment of his despair that the British representative called on him and offered him a safe passage in a British merchant ship lying in the harbour. Of this offer Rákóczy gladly availed himself, and immediately left with a number of his followers on his way to France, intending, however, to break his journey in England so as to personally visit Queen Anne and express to her his thanks for the sympathy shown in his cause.

After a long and very rough voyage, in which he had many escapes from being shipwrecked, and also from being captured by a Dutch man-of-war, he finally reached Hull in the middle of December. Here, to his dismay, the ship was ordered to stay in

THE HOUSE OF TECK

quarantine for forty days. Rákóczy sat down at once and wrote to Lord Bolingbroke explaining his position, and asking him to send another vessel to convey him to France, but at the same time intimating that he would like to pay a visit of respect to Queen Anne, who had always shown sympathy and interest in his cause. Then he waited patiently for the result.

In the meantime he was permitted to land through the supposed intervention of a Mr. Washington, who, it is believed, belonged to the family of the future famous George Washington. Being anxious to see Hull, he was, on landing, accorded an official reception by the Mayor and Corporation, and was most enthusiastically received by the people of the town, who had heard a great deal of his heroic exploits.

Matters, in the meantime, had undergone a great change to the disadvantage of Rákóczy. Prince Eugene of Savoy, the new Ambassador of the Emperor, having arrived in London, strongly protested against any mark of favour being shown to one whom he regarded as a rebel chief, and in spite of the efforts of the Lord of Strafford and Lord Bolingbroke, Queen Anne decided not to do anything that would be likely to give offence to her powerful ally, the Emperor; but she caused a hint to be conveyed to his representative that she would support any action which King Louis XIV., with whom peace was about to be restored, might put forward. Lord Bolingbroke sent to Hull the ship required, with this message, and Rákóczy, after some



PRINCESS RÁKÓCZY
WIFE OF FERENCZ (FRANCIS) RÁKÓCZY II.

RÁKÓCZY LEAVES FOR FRANCE

delay, set sail for France, keenly regretting not having had an occasion to visit London. Rákóczy, in his Diary, says that his representative Clement told him afterwards, in Paris, that Lord Bolingbroke played a double game, and had Rákóczy given him a bribe of 50,000 thalers, he would, in spite of Prince Eugene's protestation, have arranged an interview with Queen Anne. On his voyage he watched with the greatest interest the towns on the coast, including Yarmouth, and expressed his warmest admiration for the British Mercantile Fleet. He finally arrived at Dieppe, where he received a very warm welcome.

Reaching Paris (1713) he was accorded a friendly reception by the King, who behaved to him most generously, making him an annual grant.

Rákóczy became the lion of Paris, and all the *noblesse* vied with each other in paying him attention. Colbert, Polignac, De Gramont, Voisin, Louis d'Armagnac (nicknamed Monsieur le Grand), all loaded him with attentions, and at the salons of the Duchesse du Maine and Princess Condé no one was more welcome than Rákóczy. Indeed, he did not elude the curiosity of Madame de Maintenon and Madame St. Germain, who desired to entertain him in their sumptuous palaces.

So Rákóczy stayed on till after the death of King Louis XIV., vainly endeavouring to restore the independence of Transylvania, and to receive back his confiscated estates.

Finally abandoning all hopes of the restoration of the Principality and the return of his property,

THE HOUSE OF TECK

he left France for Turkey to join his family, and died at Rodosto.

His ashes, after reposing nearly two hundred years on Turkish soil, were brought back to Hungary in 1906 by a special decree of the Emperor-King, who at the same time rescinded the original act by which Rákóczy was declared an outlaw.

CHAPTER XI

THE WESSELÉNYI FAMILY

The Wesselényi family is a very old one, though it only came into prominence in the sixteenth century, when the two brothers, Miklós and Ferencz I., leaving their ancestral home, Wesselényi in Hungary, settled in Transylvania, where they soon rose to eminence during the reign of Zigismund Szapolyai, the rival king of the Emperor Ferdinand I.

Ferencz I. particularly distinguished himself in many battles, and, when Stephen Báthory became King of Poland, was rewarded by numerous large estates for his bravery, and created a Baron.

But the glory of the house was established by Ferencz Wesselényi II., who became Palatine of Hungary, and played an important part in the history of his country.

Ferencz Wesselényi entered the army at an early age, and distinguished himself against the Turks. He also fought under the banner of Uladislaus IV., King of Poland, against the Russians and Tartars, and was richly rewarded for his bravery.

The Emperor Ferdinand II. created him a Count and appointed him Commander of Fülek; later he became Commander-in-Chief of the Hungarian forces, and in this capacity fought against George Rákóczy and the Swedes.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

THE VENUS OF MURÁNY

But his greatest achievement was the capture of the important fort of Murány, so heroically defended by its beautiful *châtelaine*, Maria Széchi, familiar in the history of Hungary as the "Venus of Murány." The fort was held in fief from the Crown by her husband, Bethlen, but on his death she refused to surrender it, and the many generals sent by the Emperor to compel its delivery had to return disgraced at being defeated by the soldiers under her command.

It was now the turn of Wesselényi to try his hand.

For a long time Maria Széchi bravely withstood the onslaughts of Wesselényi, who, historians tell us, was much more anxious to capture the heart of his opponent than the fort itself. He was richly rewarded for his gallant efforts, for Maria Széchi, greatly admiring the bravery of the young and handsome knight, surrendered her heart to him, and with it the fort of Murány, the happy couple celebrating their nuptials in the castle itself soon after its capitulation.

Though the Emperor rewarded Wesselényi by granting him the castle of Murány and created him a hereditary Count, yet some time after, when the Protestants were persecuted in Hungary, he, in spite of having been brought up in the Catholic faith, became their champion against the Emperor.

Wesselényi's popularity in Hungary became so



THE CASTLE OF MURÁNY



THE CASTLE OF MAKOVICZA
(THE LAST STRONGHOLD OF FERENCZ RÁKÓCZY)

THE VENUS OF MURÁNY

great that, in the year 1665, he was elected to the exalted rank of Palatine in spite of the opposition of some of the important members of the Court party.

True adherent of the Emperor Leopold I. as he was, when he saw the Emperor, as King of Hungary, desired to destroy the Constitution of that country, he resigned his post as Palatine and placed himself at the head of a conspiracy, the members of which were the most famous men of the time, and included the great lords—Peter Zrinyi, Ban of Croatia, and descendant of the famous hero of Szigetvár; Ferencz Nádasdy, the Lord Chief Justice of the country; the noble Ferencz Frangepan; and Ferencz Rákóczy I.

It was arranged that unless the Emperor conceded the demands of the country, the nation should rise against the House of Habsburg and dethrone them as Kings of Hungary.

This plan also received the support of Apaffy I., Prince of Transylvania, and Louis XIV. of France made friendly promises. Matters were ripe for an open revolt, when Wesselényi was suddenly taken ill. Feeling that his end was approaching, he sent for the priest, who abjured him to confess his sins to God and his King.

Wesselényi, who, it must be remembered, was a strict Catholic, was just about to disclose the secret plans of his party, when his wife, Maria Széchi, interposed, saying, "Yes, confess thy sins, but to dethrone the monarch who is unjust and cruel to his people is no sin. It is a virtue." And she would not allow her

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husband to continue. Again, before his death (1671), Wesselényi was engaged in writing out a statement for the King's perusal when Maria Széchi interfered and tore it up.

After Wesselényi's death the King discovered all these secret plans, and being aware that the papers and documents in connection with them were concealed in the castle of Murány, he ordered an army to attack the fort, which was bravely defended by Maria Széchi. At last the commander of the attacking force sent her word that if she would yield up the fort she would be treated with clemency.

Her reply was, "I would rather blow up the castle and myself with it, than yield it up on such terms. I will only surrender it if a free pardon, signed by the King himself, be sent to my followers and myself."

This she received, though subsequently all the ringleaders were executed, with the exception of Francis Rákóczy I., whose liberty was bought at an enormous sum by his mother, the famous Sophia Báthory.

After the surrender of the castle of Murány, Maria Széchi left Hungary and entered a convent at Vienna, where she died.

Gyöngyösy, who next to Peter Zrinyi was the greatest poet of his time, has glorified the heroic defence of Murány in a poem of over nine hundred verses, entitled, "The Venus of Murány," for which Maria Széchi made him a grant of a whole village, called Babuluska.

THE SAXE-COBURG-KOHÁRYS

THE CASTLE OF MURÁNY

It might be interesting to state here that the castle of Murány was originally built and owned by the Aba family as early as the 12th century. During the absence of one of the members in the Crusades, where he accompanied King Andrew III., the castle was wrongfully taken possession of by the great rebel and usurper, Maté Csák, a powerful noble in those days, who defied the King's authority and made himself the master of the greater part of Hungary, where he held a regular Court and levied taxes on his people.

The Castle of Murány then passed from hand to hand, and was ultimately held in fief by the greatest nobles and adherents of the Kings of Hungary; finally it passed into the possession of the princely family of Koháry.

Prince Antal Koháry, the Chancellor of Hungary, dying in 1826 without male issue, his daughter, who was married to Prince Ferdinand of Coburg, became possessed of the estates, which passed into that branch of the Saxe-Coburg family, who, as part of the conditions of the marriage, assumed the additional name of Koháry. The present owners of the Castle Murány are Prince Philip of Saxe-Coburg-Koháry, son-in-law of the late King of the Belgians, and King Ferdinand of Bulgaria. The latter, who was principally brought up in Hungary, and prior to his election to the throne of Bulgaria was in the Hungarian army, is fond of spending his holidays at the castle of Murány, and proudly assumes, when incognito, the title of Count de Murány. It should

THE HOUSE OF TECK

be mentioned that this branch of the Saxe-Coburg and Gotha family is nearly related to Their Majesties the King and Queen, as well as to Count Albert Mensdorff, the popular Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in London, who, as is well known, is nearly related to the English Royal Family. He has represented his country in the Court of St. James's in three successive reigns, having been a great favourite of Queen Victoria and a personal friend of King Edward, and is regarded with the same affection by King George and the Queen.

BARON MIKLÓS WESSELÉNYI

Another distinguished member of the family was Baron Miklós Wesselényi (1750–1808). Like all his race, he was of great stature and manly bearing. At the age of seventeen he joined the Bethlen Huszár regiment, and in 1772, in the reign of Maria Theresia, took part in the expedition to Poland which had for its aim the occupation of that portion of the country which at the time of its division fell to her share. His handsome presence and charming manners, and also his skill in swordsmanship, won the hearts of the Poles of Galicia. He was a man of impulse and romantic to a degree, as evidence of which may be mentioned his marriage with the beautiful Ilona Csérei, whom he carried off from a convent, the pair spending their lives on his estate at Zsibó. Baron Miklós was none the less a man of deep thought, highly cultured, and of wide reading. Of a liberal turn of mind, he advocated

BARON MIKLÓS WESSELÉNYI

the national rights, and thereby drew down on himself the animosity of the military clique, which caused his arrest by order of the Emperor Joseph II. He was kept in prison for eight years, until 1789, when his wife managed to obtain his release. In 1791 he made his appearance in the Transylvanian Diet, where by his great eloquence and high principles he soon became the leader of the Opposition, advocating liberal reforms and the abolition of the rights of the privileged classes. In 1804 he was appointed Governor of the county of Közép Szólnok. He was greatly interested in the literary progress of the country, and was in touch with all its shining lights. Towards the latter part of his life, however, his health declined, and in 1808 he died.

Baron Miklós Wesselényi (1796–1850) inherited his father's physical strength, and the gifted mind and lovable disposition of his mother. Destined for a political career, the opportunity presented itself in 1823, when, after the suppression of the Transylvanian Diet, which during the Napoleonic wars had ceased to be convened, the Liberals clamoured for the constitutional rights of the Principality which had been withheld from them by the Emperor Francis. Wesselényi later became acquainted with the great reformer, Stephen Széchenyi, and accompanied him on his travels to England and France for the purpose of studying the constitutions of those countries with a view of introducing reforms into Hungary and Transylvania. Whilst Széchenyi laboured in the direction of the moral and social progress of the country—Hungary owing to him the

THE HOUSE OF TECK

establishment of many scientific institutions, and many innovations brought about by his initiative—Baron Wesselényi became the exponent of the rights of the people, and clamoured for the abolition of the feudal privileges and the holding of an annual Parliament.

His line of conduct becoming troublesome to the Court party, the Emperor endeavoured to win him over to his side, but Wesselényi was not one to swerve from his principles. The following story related about him clearly demonstrates this. When Wesselényi was attending a levée of the Emperor at Pozsony, the Sovereign, in making his round of the circle, stopped opposite the Transylvanian Baron, already distinguished as a Liberal leader, and, shaking his head very ominously, addressed him: "Take care, Baron Wesselényi, what you are about; recollect how many of your family have been unfortunate." "Unfortunate, Your Majesty, they have been, but ever undeserving of their misfortunes also," was Wesselényi's bold and honest answer.

The agitation caused by Wesselényi convinced the Court party of the impossibility of deferring further the convocation of the Diet, which in 1834 was duly convened, Wesselényi becoming the leader of the Opposition. In vain did the Emperor's Commissioner try to restrict the tendencies of the Assembly. Wesselényi insisted on its right to discuss all matters pertaining to the Principality, and the publication of its proceedings, which was prohibited. Wesselényi, however, disregarding all this, obtained a printing press of his own and published

BARON MIKLÓS WESSELÉNYI

the speeches of the members of the Diet. For this, and a violent attack on the Court party policy, he was arraigned, and, in spite of his many eminent services, was condemned to be detained in the fortress of Buda. He was only allowed to leave for Austria in consequence of his failing eyesight; indeed, before long he became entirely blind.

Besides his political activity, the nation owes much to his untiring efforts to encourage agriculture and the breeding of horses, his stud at Zsibó being famous in its day.

The events of 1848 brought him to the front again in the ranks of those who aimed at the country's separation from the House of Austria, but the loss of his eyesight prevented him from taking any active part in the movement, and after travelling abroad, he died in 1850 on his way home.

Amongst the present-day members of the House of Wesselényi, it may be of interest to state that Baron Nicolas Wesselényi holds at Court the high position of Guardian of the Sacred Crown of St. Stephen. To the Baroness István Wesselényi we often have occasion to refer. She is extremely charitable, having interested herself for many years in the welfare of her country, and founded a society for the encouragement of home industries, which she generously supports. She spends the greater part of her time on her estates in Transylvania. The Baroness, with hersister, Baroness Horváth, both born Rhédeys and daughters of one of the last survivors of that illustrious house, are the nearest living relations of the late Duke of Teck on that side of the family.

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CHAPTER XII

THE BÁNFFY FAMILY

The Bánffy family, which is one of the oldest in Hungary, dates back to the twelfth century, and provided to the country several Palatines and administrators. One of the earliest members of the family was Lukács (Lucas) Bánffy, who was a famous Archbishop in Hungary (1151-1175). In the election of Pope Alexander, he induced the King of Hungary to side with England and France against Victor, the nominee of the German Emperor.

Of another Bánffy, belonging to a different branch, who was *Comes*, Lord Lieutenant of the Bakony district at the time of the invasion in the thirteenth century, it is related that he was dragged by the barbarians from the altar, where he was performing his devotions, and tortured to death. His son, István (Stephen), who built the fort of Lendva, became Ban (Viceroy) of Slavonia, and through this exalted dignity his son Miklós became known as "Bánffy," meaning in Hungarian "son of the Ban." Henceforth the family adopted that name.

Like most great families in Hungary the Bánffys split up into several branches, and of these the Losoncz branch, with which Her Majesty's Hungarian ancestors became related, furnished the most distinguished members of the family. Amongst these

THE BÁNFFY FAMILY

Dénes Bánffy, who lived in the thirteenth century, was a great adherent of Andrew II., father of St. Elizabeth. His son was brought up together with Béla IV. From this Bánffy sprang the great Dessewffy family.

But by far the best-known member of the family was Dénes Bánffy, to whom we have already had occasion to refer as the brother-in-law of Prince Apaffy. He was the mightiest and richest noble of his time in Transylvania, and as Lord Lieutenant of the county of Kolos, which contains the capital of Transylvania, his power was unlimited. Though he was a most kind-hearted man, the regal style in which he lived and his haughty demeanour evoked the envy of many of his opponents, amongst whom were principally Michael Teleki and Csáky, both nearly related to him. These two induced his brother-in-law, Prince Apaffy, to impeach him; he was found guilty and beheaded. Princess Apaffy did all in her power to save his life, and obtained her husband's pardon, but the order arrived too late. In his younger days he was on terms of friendship with Prince Rhédey III., and during the rule of the former he enjoyed his implicit confidence. Many of his most valuable relics were left to the Rhédey family, several interesting articles being in the possession of the present Duke of Teck.

György Bánffy, the son of Dénes, was also persecuted after the death of his father, but later, in 1678, became Lord Lieutenant of Kolos, and in 1696 was created a Count. After the death of Apaffy in 1690 he was sent on a mission to England to

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Queen Mary and William III., and also to the Elector of Brandenburg—to whose daughter the young Prince, the son of Apaffy, was betrothed—to obtain their influence with the German Emperor to secure for the Prince the throne of Transylvania.

In 1691 György Bánffy became Governor of Transylvania. He was a great opponent of Francis Rákóczy II.

Another Bánffy, also called György, who was born in 1747, was a trusted friend of the Emperor Joseph, who nominated him Chancellor in 1783. Later he became Governor of Transylvania. He died in 1822.

BARON DEZSÓ BÁNFFY

But the greatest of the Bánffys was Baron Dezsó Bánffy. My heart grieves me that at the very moment I was penning the life of this great Hungarian statesman and patriot the news of his sudden death reached me. In his person, not only the family of Bánffy, but Hungary has lost one of its noblest sons, and one whose life was, at all times, unselfishly devoted to his country. As an ardent Protestant he was the patron of the Reformed Faith in Hungary and Transylvania, and laboured throughout his eventful career to obtain equal rights for the Protestant and other religious bodies with that of the Catholic faith. Two powerful Prime Ministers, who were his predecessors in the Hungarian Cabinet, Dr. Wekerle and the present Premier, Count Khuen-Héderváry, who had the same aim in view, were



THE LATE BARON DEZSŐ BÁNFFY

THE BÁNFFY FAMILY

defeated on this all-important question. But Baron Bánffy, on his nomination as Prime Minister, carried the day, and, as a result, civil marriage, religious freedom, and the removal of Jewish disabilities have become established law throughout Hungary. It was a wonderful triumph in a country where Catholicism is so powerful and is the religion of the reigning dynasty. Bánffy's strong attitude towards the Papal Nuncio, who attempted to interfere in the carrying out of the law, will ever be remembered, and had its influence in the election of the present Pope.

Bánffy had a strong desire to "Magyarise" all the nationalities of Hungary, and thus to create one united kingdom. In this endeavour he was bitterly attacked, but this never led him to swerve from his path, which led to such happy results. He was the hardest of workers and despised all formalities, and if he was often accused of his brusque manners, he greatly pleased the Emperor-King by his honesty and straightforwardness, and although they did not always agree in the policy to be pursued, the Emperor-King, Francis Joseph, knew very well that in Bánffy he always had a loyal friend in whom he could place implicit trust. The leading part that he took some years ago in the Parliamentary Opposition to the will of the Crown is well known, and nothing can speak more eloquently in his praise than that when the Emperor-King decided upon the formation of a Coalition Ministry, composed of the members of the Opposition, Bánffy, who was one of its principal leaders, declined to accept any office in the

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newly-formed Cabinet, on the ground that the members had been asked by the Sovereign to sacrifice some of the demands formulated by the Coalition.

His kind-heartedness had no limits, and his death has cast the whole of Hungary into the deepest gloom.

CHAPTER XIII

THE SZEMERE FAMILY

The Szemere family, also related with the Rhédeys, is the most ancient one left in Hungary, and descends from Duke Huba, one of the conquerors who accompanied Árpád to Hungary.

Amongst the earlier members was a certain Szemere, who lived in the time of Béla IV., who gave the name of Szemere to the village and the family.

Many of their members have distinguished themselves in the history of their country, and several have obtained eminence in science and literature.

Pál Szemere and his friend, the contemporary poet, Kazinczy, were the greatest poets of their time, and it is to them that Hungarian literature owes its foundation.

Bertalan Szemere was a great adherent of Louis Kossuth, and held the portfolio in his Cabinet during the Hungarian War of Independence; and later, when the National party proclaimed the independence of Hungary and Louis Kossuth became Dictator, Bertalan Szemere was the President of the Assembly.

It is worthy of mention that when the Hungarian Government, in 1848, had to take flight to Debreczen, Arad, Temesvár, and other places, Szemere, to whom was entrusted the care of the crown of St. Stephen, of which the Nationalists had become possessed,

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concealed the sacred relics in different spots known only to themselves, and finally, when the Hungarian cause was lost and all the participants in the patriotic rising had to fly for their lives and take refuge on foreign soil, Szemere, before escaping, buried the crown at Orsova on the Roumanian frontier, where it remained for five years prior to its being restored. It was only in 1867, after the reconciliation between Austria and Hungary, that the Emperor-King was crowned King of Hungary with that sacred crown. A memorial chapel has been erected by His Majesty on the site of the spot where the crown was discovered, two years after the event.

Szemere was a man of great learning and wrote several works. During his exile he found refuge in England and France.

His son, Attila, who was born in Paris in 1859, and spent a great deal of his youth in England, was a man of great culture and has travelled in many countries. Returning to his native land, he became a prominent figure in Hungarian society, where for many years he was known as the "Beau Brummel" of Hungary.

The Szemeres are very proud of their descent from Duke Huba, and of one of its members it is said that when he was offered a high title he haughtily declined, saying, "Is it likely that the descendant of Huba, who fought by the side of Árpád, would exchange his ducal crown for that of any other?"

CHAPTER XIV

THE KÁROLYI FAMILY

As staunch Protestants, the Rhédeys have rarely intermarried with Catholic families, but their connection with the Károlyis is a very old one. It is to this great family that belonged Count Alois Károlyi, well known in this country, having held the position of Austro-Hungarian Ambassador to the Court of St. James's for many years, during which time he and his beautiful Countess were most popular in English society. Of their children, who were practically brought up in England, his eldest daughter, Countess Naudina Károlyi, whose *début* at the Court of Queen Victoria was one of the events of the season, married Count Berchtold, for many years attached to the Austro-Hungarian Embassy in London and now Ambassador at St. Petersburg, his great diplomatic skill and tact being well known in connection with the recent annexation of Bosnia, in which he played an important part.

The son of Count Károlyi, also brought up in England, married the beautiful Countess Hanna Széchényi, daughter of the eminent Hungarian savant-magnate, Count Béla Széchényi, a personal friend of the late King Edward.

The Károlyis own immense estates in Hungary, which they possessed through one of their ancestors, who was Commander-in-Chief to the famous

THE HOUSE OF TECK

Rákóczy II., whose cause, however, he deserted and became the adherent of the Emperor. Upon the defeat and exile of Rákóczy, who was made an outlaw and deprived of his estates, Károlyi received as a grant a number of Rákóczy's vast properties.

The Károlyis, like the family of Bocskay, to whom belonged the Prince of Transylvania of that name, descend from the same stock. According to the *Anonymus Notarius*, who wrote in the thirteenth century, their ancestors settled in Hungary in the early part of the tenth century in the reign of Taksony, a grandson of Árpád.

A GUELPH LEGEND RECALLED

A story is told of their ancestor, a certain Count Micz, who was married for a number of years and had no children. One day the Countess was appealed to for help by a woman who had just given birth to triplets. But the Countess refused to give her alms, telling her she must be a wicked woman to have three children at a time. The woman then cursed her, praying that she might give birth to seven children, and, indeed, it so happened that the following year the Countess did give birth to seven sons. Horrified at the fulfilment of the curse, she resolved only to keep one of the children, and gave the others in charge of an old woman, begging her to destroy them.

It so happened that the Count was on his way home, when he noticed the old woman carrying away the children. He got to know all about the affair,

THE KÁROLYI FAMILY

and took the children away, bringing them up secretly, and it was not till they had grown up that he acquainted the Countess of their being still alive. The Countess, seized with remorse at her wicked act, had often repented the deed, and received the news most joyfully.

The story, which first saw the light in the eleventh century, reminds one very much of the Guelph legend of about a hundred years previous, and we wonder whether this Count Micz, who evidently came to Hungary at the same time as Arnuld, called the "Bad," was not a descendent of one of those prolific Guelphs, whose wife started the family tree by giving birth to twelve children at one time.

There are besides a number of other families connected with the Rhédeys, and amongst these are the Bárdossy, Kozma, and Kornis already referred to.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

CHAPTER XV

THE ANCIENT HOMES OF THE HOUSE OF ABA

Having given a short outline of the different branches and families connected with the House of Aba, we shall now take the reader to the ancient homes of the illustrious house and those of their descendants, the Rhédeys, and the other branches of that family.

The possessions of the House of Aba, in the height of their glory, were immense, and comprised vast territories all along the Danube, the Balaton lake district, and all over Upper Hungary, right up to the high Tatra mountain ranges, terminating at the north-eastern portion of the Carpathians—roughly speaking, occupying in all about a seventh part of the entire country. It would be impossible here in this short sketch to do justice to a district so richly endowed by nature, with the soil of which so many historic events and romances are associated. Yet even a hurried description will serve to show its significance, and the important part it has played from the days of the conquest of the country by Árpád. The Rhédeys and the other branches of their family, besides having their estates in Hungary, possessed, as we have seen, vast territories in Tran-



VIEW OF POZSONY
THE FORMER CAPITAL OF HUNGARY



ESZTERGOM
THE BIRTHPLACE OF ST. STEPHEN

THE DANUBE TOWNS

sylvania; among themselves, indeed, they may be said to have owned the greater part of that country.

THE DANUBE TOWNS

The Danubian towns first claim our attention, not only for the reason that this is the way that Hungary is generally reached, by the traveller coming from England, but because this part of Hungary was the scene of so many heroic battles fought by Samu Aba against the Emperor Henry III., which in the end resulted in the defeat of the former.

The visitor coming from Austria to the beautiful Hungarian metropolis, Budapest, either by the Danube steamer or the two different railway routes connecting the two capitals of the Dual Empire, will, immediately upon setting foot on Hungarian soil, notice a number of picturesque towns and villages scattered about the banks of the Danube, and on the many islands formed by this gigantic river and its tributaries.

Amongst these places, which once played a very important part in the history of the country in the days of the Romans, and during the conquest of the country by the Magyars just referred to, the first town that meets the eye of the traveller along the left bank of the Danube is Magyar Óvár. This city is noted for its Agricultural Academy—the largest in the country.

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MOSONY

From here we soon reach the town of Mosony. A great battle was fought at this spot between the armies of King Samu Aba and the Emperor Henry III. of Germany. It was here also that at the time of the Crusades many thousands of the Crusaders, who so poorly repaid Hungarian hospitality by pillage and plunder, met their death at the hands of King Kálmán's army (1096).

POZSONY (PRESSBURG)

Travelling by the opposite shore of the Danube we come to the historic city of Pozsony, where were crowned the Kings of Hungary from the sixteenth century, as the then capital of Hungary. On its lofty hill, called "Királyhegy" (King's Hill), the sovereigns of Hungary, after their coronation, took the oath of fidelity by drawing the sword of St. Stephen, turning to the four points of the globe, saying, "I will defend my country, whenever it may be attacked, with this sword which the nation has delivered into my hands."

It was at Pozsony that Maria Theresia, when menaced by the whole of Europe, appeared in the Hungarian Assembly and appealed to the chivalry of the magnates for their protection, the nobles, including several ancestors of Her Majesty the Queen, uttering the celebrated dictum, "*Moriamur pro rege nostro Maria Theresia.*"



STATUE OF MARIA THERESIA AT POZSONY
By FADRUSZ

THE DANUBE TOWNS

It will be, perhaps, of interest to state here that it was at the Congress of Pozsony, known as the Treaty of Pressburg, that the Duchy of Württemberg was created a kingdom in 1805.

The town is most picturesquely situated along the Danube, and besides the Gothic cathedral, commenced in the eleventh century, in which the Kings of Hungary were formerly crowned, and the Houses of Parliament of the thirteenth century, several of the mediæval gates of the town, which still remain, are of great interest. On the hills surrounding Pozsony some of the best Hungarian wines are grown. The inhabitants of the neighbourhood are composed of Magyars, Slavs, and Germans, and their quaint costumes offer a great novelty to the tourist.

GYÓR

Proceeding further amidst romantic scenery, Győr next claims our attention. Győr used to be a favourite residence of King Samu Aba, where he kept his vast treasures, and it was here also that, owing to the treachery of his nobles on account of his sympathy with the people of the country, Samu Aba was defeated by the Emperor Henry III., and his family taken prisoners.

PANNONHALMA

Quite close to Győr, on one of the three hills which rise abruptly out of the plain, is the great Benedictine monastery of Pannonhalma, the oldest home

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of Christianity in Hungary, founded by St. Stephen, and exceeding in splendour all the other abbeys of the order. It was a seat of learning for several centuries and possesses a library of over one hundred thousand volumes. This is the abbey referred to where Godfrey de Bouillon, with his wife and brother Baldwin, stayed on their passage through Hungary to the Holy Land, and were entertained there by King Kálmán and the Prince Abbot of the monastery, who, like Her Majesty's ancestors, belonged to the House of Aba.

THE CRUSADERS IN HUNGARY

During their stay in Hungary, King Kálmán not only showed lavish hospitality to Godfrey and his party, but also gave them costly gifts and escorted them with all honours to the frontier of his territory. His generosity speaks eloquently for his chivalry when we remember the excesses and outrages committed in Hungary by the earlier contingents of Crusaders led by Peter the Hermit, Walter the Penniless, and especially of the fanatic priest, Gottschalk, and a host of other leaders. Indeed, it was no easy task for Godfrey de Bouillon to obtain permission at first to pass through Hungary, and it was only when he sent his brother, Baldwin, at the head of an imposing embassy to Kálmán, pledging his word on the sword of his ancestor, Charlemagne, that he would answer for the good conduct of his men, and at the same time offering his wife and brother as hostages, that



VIEW OF BUDAPEST, SHOWING THE ROYAL PALACE AT BUDA

GODFREY DE BOUILLON

Kálmán gave his consent, though he never intended exacting these conditions.

But the fact might be recalled here that Godfrey de Bouillon was not the only leader of the Crusaders who received generous treatment by the Hungarian kings of the House of Árpád. During the Second Crusade, in the reign of Géza II. (1114-61) both the Emperor Conrad I. and Louis VII. of France received the same kindness. In the Third Crusade, in the reign of Béla III. (1173-96), the Emperor Frederick was struck with the magnificence of the hospitality he enjoyed at the Hungarian Court. The Crusaders, however, rarely proved their gratitude to Hungary, and this was never more noticeable than in the Crusade led during the reign of Imre, in 1201, by Simon de Montfort, Walter de Brienne, and Godfrey de Villehardouin, the chronicler of the Crusades, who, in consideration of a rebate of 35,000 silver marks as the cost of their passage to the Holy Land, agreed to aid Doge Dandolo to capture Zara from the Hungarians, although they had been previously generously entertained by them.

Though, with the exception of Andrew II., none of the Kings of Hungary took a personal part in any of the Crusades, owing to the wars in which they were engaged with their neighbouring states, nevertheless the Crusades always had the generous support of the Hungarian monarchs; and indeed it would have been difficult to convey such large armies to the East, had it not been for the generosity and assistance of the Hungarian kings, who

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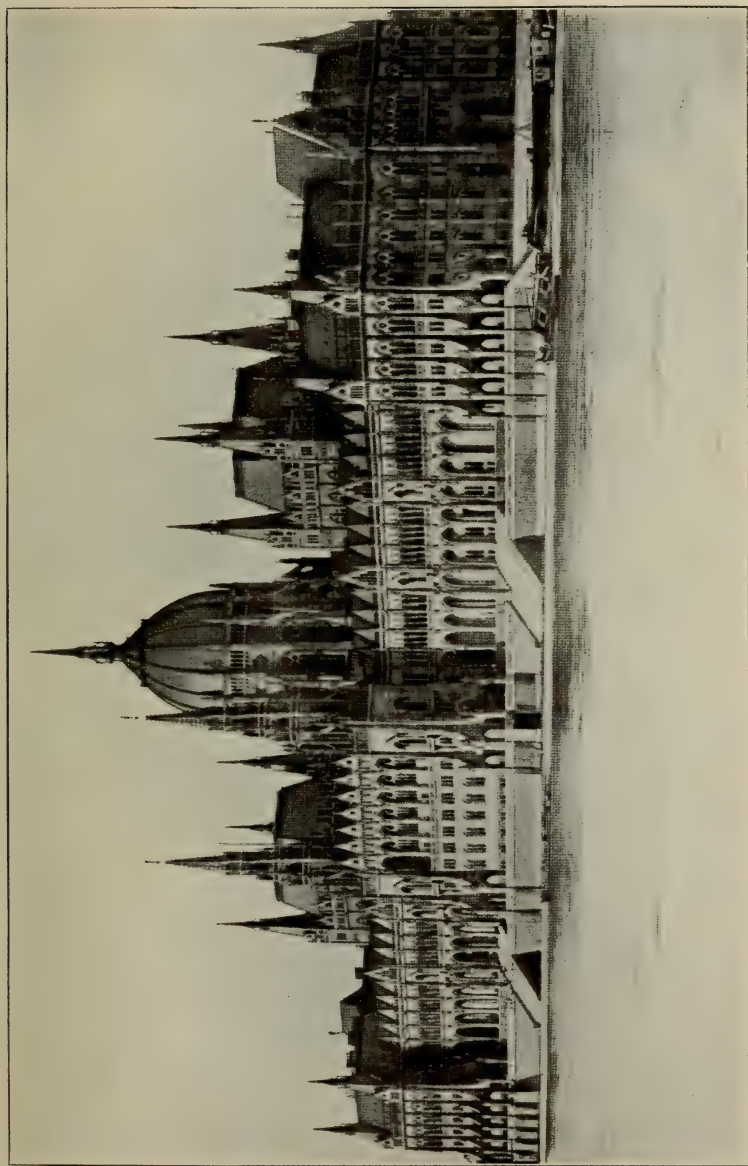
themselves also sent several contingents to the Holy Land. The first of these was led by Prince Boris, the rival claimant to the throne of King Géza, who joined Louis VII.'s expedition, whilst in the Third Crusade, King Béla III. sent his brother, Géza, with a Hungarian contingent, under the leadership of the Emperor Frederick.

MARRIAGE ALLIANCES WITH CRUSADERS

It might not be out of place here to say that the Hungarian Court was closely allied by marriage ties with most of the leaders of the Crusades, or those who were prominently associated with the great movement, and the fact of their passing through Hungary was more than once the means of bringing about further alliances. In the first instance it is interesting to state that King Kálmán's Queen, Buzilla, was the daughter of Roger I. of Sicily, thus a cousin of both Tancred and Bohemond—the heroes of the First Crusade—and a connection, of course, of the Norman rulers.

St. Ladislaus' daughter, Irene, was the wife of John II. (1088–1143), styled the “Byzantine Marcus Aurelius,” and her sympathies largely helped the Crusaders at Constantinople. Her husband, as we know, was the son of the Emperor Alexis I., and brother of the famous Anna Comnena, who wrote the first account of the Crusades.

The Emperor Frederick I.'s passage through Hungary, which coincided with that of Louis VII.



THE HUNGARIAN HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

ELEANOR OF AQUITAINE

of France, also left its result in the marriage mart, for his son was in after times affianced to the daughter of King Béla III., and if King Louis's previous sojourn in Hungary was marred by the quarrel he had there with his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine, it had at least one result, that in after years, when Béla III. became a widower, he was married, in 1186, to Margaret, daughter of Louis VIII.

There seems to be little doubt that this Margaret was the Margaret of France who was previously married to Prince Henry, the second son of Henry II. of England, and, as is well known, was the cause of trouble between England and France, owing to young Henry, who was crowned King of England at Winchester, 1170, during the lifetime of his father, refusing to crown his wife at the same time. Henry dying in 1183, she was married to King Béla three years later.

Another marriage which was doubtless brought about in connection with the Crusades was that of the Emperor Frederick II., to Constantina of Arragon, widow of King Imre (1196-1205).

Finally, it must be remembered that King Andrew II. (1205-35), who himself led a crusade to the Holy Land in 1217, was married to Gertrude de Meran, who, as stated elsewhere, was a near relation of the Hohenstaufen Emperor, whilst the daughter of Andrew II., the famous St. Elizabeth of Hungary, married Louis IV. of Thuringia.

It will be seen from this brief sketch that the kings of the House of Árpád, who were of the same blood as her Majesty's Hungarian ancestors,

THE HOUSE OF TECK

became at an early period closely related to the Hohenstaufen ancestors of her Majesty.

SZENT MÁRTON (SAINT MARTIN)

Not far from here, on the way to Pozsony, is the village of Szent Márton, where St. Martin is supposed to have been born. In the twelfth century one of the earliest ancestors of the Rhédeys resided there and owned the vast estates round it, and the family then styled itself "de Réde et Szent Márton." It is worthy of note that after the defeat of King Béla IV., during the Tartar invasion of Hungary (1242), he took refuge here, evidently with the Rhédeys, who were his kinsmen. In a short time we reach Komárom.

KOMÁROM

the ancient Hungarian fort founded in the thirteenth century, which proved impregnable for all time, is still termed "the Virgin Fortress of Hungary." Komárom was the birthplace of the immortal Hungarian poet and writer, Maurice Jókai. The town was one of the greatest centres for trade in the early ages, and Roman galleys used to discharge their rich cargoes at this place. In the thirteenth century boats loaded with merchandise coming from Germany made Komárom their great mart.

ESZTERGOM

The next town we reach is Esztergom, the seat of the Prince Primate of Hungary. It was here that



GENERAL VIEW OF BUDAPEST

BIRTHPLACE OF ST. STEPHEN

King St. Stephen was born, baptised, and in the year 1000 A.D. was crowned as the first Christian King of Hungary. The castle, which is now in ruins, served as a royal residence to him as well as to King Samuel Aba, and the other kings of the Árpád dynasty, from the eleventh to the fourteenth century, when it was forsaken for Visegrád in its close proximity. Behind the fortified walls of Esztergom a large number of traders settled, and it became the centre of the trade between the East and West, but the Turkish occupation put an end to the prosperity of the city. The Cathedral, which stands majestically on the summit of the rock, is one of the largest and most beautiful churches in Hungary. St. Stephen is said to have been born on the very spot where St. Stephen's Chapel stands.

VÁCZ

Winding our way towards Budapest amidst ranges of hills sloping down to the banks of the Danube, we come to the cathedral town of the city of Vác with its picturesque surroundings. Its bishopric is a very important one, and the palace a most imposing building, which cannot fail to attract the immediate attention of the traveller.

VISEGRÁD

Close to here, on the summit of a hill on the opposite bank of the Danube, stands the castle of Visegrád, of which only a few ruins are left, in its

THE HOUSE OF TECK

day one of the noblest royal palaces in the land. Its magnificent halls and hanging gardens were the talk of Europe. It was a favourite resort of King Matthias Corvinus, and his headquarters in his hunting expeditions in the neighbouring forests.

BUDAPEST

Finally we reach the capital of Hungary—the city of Budapest, the city of pleasure and gaiety, of song, music, and art, and the city of romance. As the object of this account is to acquaint the reader with the home of the Rhédeys, I shall not attempt here to give a description of the wonders of this beautiful city. Suffice it to say, that its unrivalled situation, its magnificent streets, imposing buildings, and beautiful surroundings proclaim it one of the finest cities in the world.



ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL THOROUGHFARES AT BUDAPEST

CHAPTER XVI

THE BALATON LAKE DISTRICT

We must now hasten to the Balaton and Bakony districts, which vividly recall the memories of the birth of Christianity in Hungary, and the laurels gained by Samu Aba in vanquishing the mighty heathen leader, Kupa. It is one of the most interesting parts of Hungary, and the Balaton Lake is not only the largest in the country, but also in the whole of Central Europe.

The best way of reaching this picturesque district is to take train from Budapest, *viâ* Székes-Fehérvár. This town was the ancient place of coronation of the Hungarian kings of the Arpád dynasty, and also their last resting-place. Székes-Fehérvár contains a fine cathedral and several public buildings. There is a monument in honour of the great Hungarian poet Vörösmarty, who was born close by at Vértes.

BALATON FÜRED

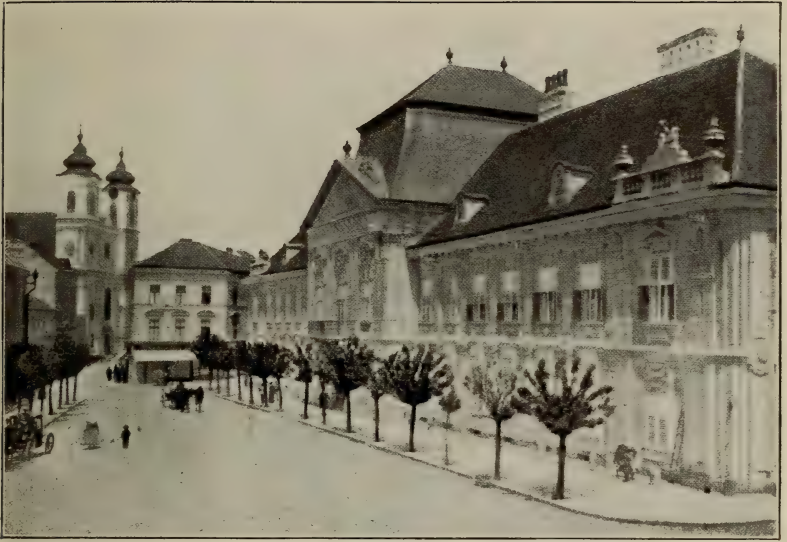
From here we reach in a short time Siófok, the terminus, from which the boat takes us to Balaton Füred. Very few places have been so gifted by nature as Balaton Füred and its district. Maurice Jókai, in describing it, says :—

“ I have travelled through various parts of the country, and have been to the endless plains of the

THE HOUSE OF TECK

Lowlands. I have stood on the summits of the Székely snow-clad mountains, but what has enchanted me most is the district of Balaton. The Alföld seems to me like a mother who does not don her best apparel before her children, and does not care to put herself out of the way to appear beautiful on their behalf, but by the expanse of the golden sea of cornfields she knows how she loves them, and what a good mother she is, and whilst she tells the fairy tales of the gliding Fata Morgana, she sings their cradle-song in the music of the larks. The picture of Transylvania appears to me like a proud fairy, who is astoundingly faithful, magical, and alluring. The sighing of the pines whispers sweet words. The sight of the Alps draws you away to the distance, and makes you long for the unattainable, and a painful feeling adds its weight to your parting. Oh, but the Balaton is an enchanting bride, who waits for her bridegroom. At every point she shows him her charms. The further we look the more beautiful she seems to be, and, though I may be laughed at, I say that the whole district smiles. . . . As a farmer, I give the first place to the plains of the Tisza ; as a politician, I fall in love with Transylvania ; but as a poet I give the apple of beauty to Balaton. Only this pains me, that I cannot describe it as beautiful as I saw it before me."

As you proceed on the gigantic lake, the surface of which glitters in the rays of the sun, you are struck by the lovely scenery and the various objects of interest. On one side stretch ranges of hills, now and again bleak and desolate, at other



SZÉKESFEHÉRVÁR
(THE ANCIENT CITY OF CORONATION)



THE CASTLE OF SÜMEG

THE BALATON LEGENDS

times richly wooded and covered with luxuriant vineyards. On every side there are numerous deserted castles and ruins, each of which has furnished a favourite subject to the great Hungarian poet, Kisfaludy; in addition to which the people have many stories to tell concerning them. Thus you are pointed out the ruins of the ancient fort where Michael Ujlaky, the great opponent of Matthias Corvinus, lived, and the story goes that when the Turks in 1593 occupied this fort, an old Turkish soldier, seeing the portrait of one of the Ujlaky family, pierced it through with his sword. This was done on a Thursday, and on Friday the old Turk was found dead in his bed, and it was said that Ujlaky suffocated him, as his neck bore the mark of fingers. On every subsequent Friday one of the Turks died, and the Turks got so alarmed at this that they left the fort. Not far off are stone walls, between which a small stream flows, which is called "Kinizsi Ugrató" (Kinizsi's jump), and we are told that whilst Kinizsi's comrades were trying to destroy the bridge across the stream after they had passed over, being pursued by the Turks, Kinizsi fought single-handed against the enemy, and when the bridge was pulled down he jumped over the stream, which the Turks could not do.

Further off the ruins of the castle are pointed out where Kupa lived, who headed the heathen revolt against the introduction of Christianity into the land by St. Stephen, but was defeated and slain by King Aba. Yet, again, we see the spot upon which arose the pleasant sporting retreat of King Matthias

THE HOUSE OF TECK

Corvinus. On the other side of the lake stretch the endless plains on which the golden ears of corn are waving, and whilst you are meditating, lost in admiration at this grand spectacle, you discover Balaton Füred, which lies amidst picturesque mountains, vineyards, and gardens, and can only itself be compared to a Garden of Eden.

Facing Balaton Füred lies, hidden amongst trees, the Benedictine convent of Tihany. There is a church here which was built by King Andreas (1047-1061), and inside, a tombstone marks his last resting-place.

On the shores of the lake many picturesque towns and hamlets are scattered.

KESZTHELY

First we reach Keszthely, a pretty town chiefly connected with the Festetich family. It is here that Count Tassilo Festetich has his regal castle. Here are also some interesting antiquities; the Academy of Agriculture, founded by Count George Festetich, was the first of the kind in the country. Not far off, near Szigliget, two small hills are pointed out. On one grow flowers and grasses, whilst on the other are briars and little heaps of stones. The story goes that a peasant girl, loved by two men, one a rich suitor above her rank, the other a peasant, gave her heart and hand to her lowly lover. In rage and revenge the discarded rival killed her on her marriage day, and was in turn killed by the wedding-party, who pursued him. To mark the

THE LOVERS' HILL

scorn felt for the murderer, a stone is even now thrown on the hill which marks his resting-place by each passer-by, whilst under the flowery hillock lies the peasant-girl he loved so madly.

All along the Balaton, life is very pleasant and primitive, and the picturesque country villages and the fishermen's huts that one meets here and there on the shores of the lake add to the charm of a visit to this delightful region.

An enormous amount of fish is to be found in Balaton, and classic harpoons have recently been found in the lake, showing that the Romans, too, appreciated the good qualities of the Balaton fish.

The *fogas* caught in the lake is one of the most prized fish on the Continent, and was much relished by the late King Edward on his visit to Austria-Hungary. One of the most curious phenomena connected with the lake of Balaton is that at times, when the weather is calm, the lake becomes all of a sudden most stormy, whilst frequently it does not seem to be affected by gales. The wines of the Balaton lake, especially those of Badacsony, are famous. The historic castle of Sümeg is in the vicinity of this region.

VESZPRÉM

At the extreme end of Lake Balaton is the historic and ancient city of Veszprém, picturesquely situated on five hills. A bishopric and cathedral were founded here by St. Stephen, and at one time it had a palace where Queen Gisela resided, and, according

THE HOUSE OF TECK

to tradition, had at her Court there the English Aethelings. The only relics of the ancient edifice are the Gisela Chapel, and a few ruins of the once important citadel. Queen Gisela endowed the cathedral with many precious gifts, and the ancient chroniclers dwell at great length upon the costly pictures which she presented to the Church, set with most precious gems, diamonds, and pearls. She attracted to her Court the most pious men of the time, both from Italy and Germany, and doubtless it was at her Court that St. Margaret of Scotland, as a child, received the first religious inspirations of which she in later years became so strong a champion. Many relics have been excavated at a Roman colony, which at one time occupied a site near Veszprém.

Passing Várpalota and the Cistercian monastery of Zircz, the only one of the kind in Hungary, we penetrate to the very heart of the Bakony forest, the once dreaded haunt of brigands, where the gallant Sobri Jóska the Hungarian Robin Hood, held sway for such a long time, and poets and romancers like to dwell on his exploits.

It was here in this dense forest that, many centuries before, King Samuel Aba, after his defeat at Győr, took refuge, and was sheltered in a peasant's cottage. Ill-luck, however, seemed to pursue him, for the cottage was struck by lightning. It is said that in his flight he was betrayed by one of his former adherents and slain by the enemy.

The journey to Győr across the huge forest, studded here and there with villages and hamlets and their quaint peasantry, affords one of the most



THE CASTLE OF COUNT TASSILO FESTETICH, AT KESZTHÉLY



HOT LAKE AT TAPOLCZA



BALATON FÜRED

THE BAKONY FOREST

interesting scenes to be met with in Hungary, and before we reach the edge of the forest we have an opportunity of making a closer acquaintance with the Abbey of Pannonhalma, and once more we are back at Győr, and from there in no time in the Hungarian capital.

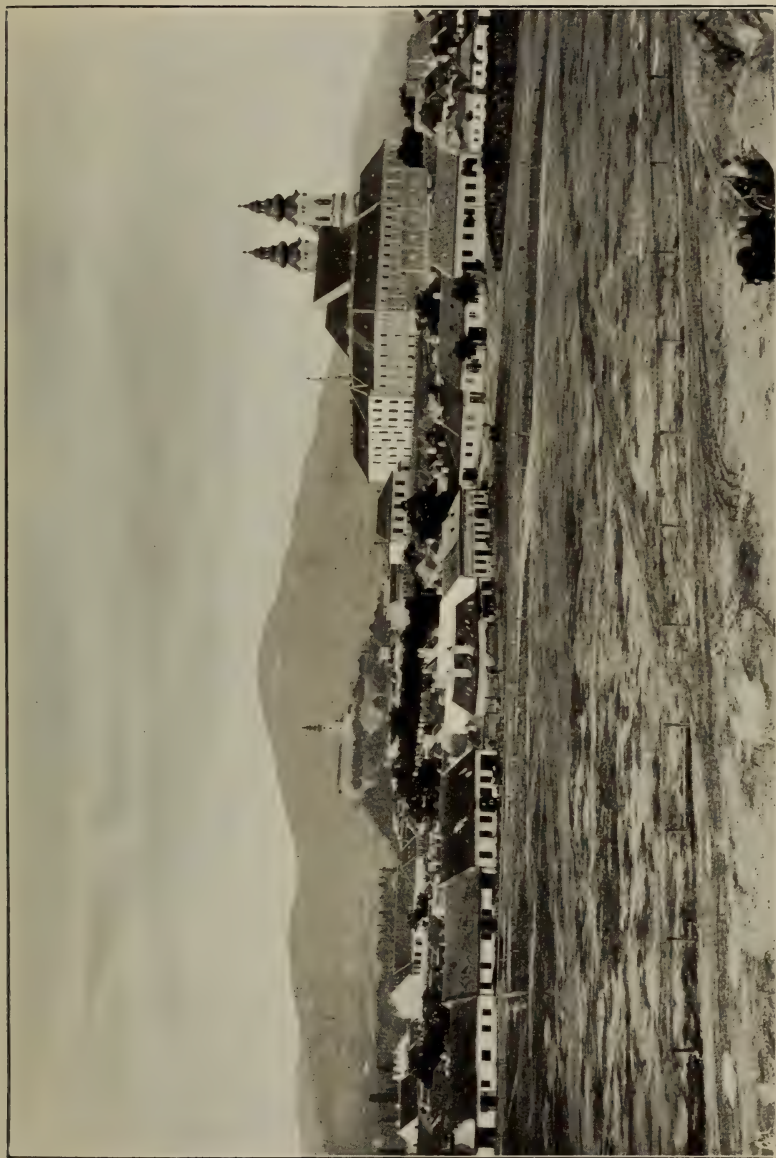
THE HOUSE OF TECK

CHAPTER XVII

THE NORTHERN HIGHLANDS

We shall now ask the reader to follow us to Northern Hungary, to the picturesque country of the Slováks, which played such a great part in the early conquest of Hungary. Its history is a very interesting one.

At the time of the conquest of Hungary this portion of the country belonged to the great Moravian Empire, which included Moravia proper, and extended to Bohemia on one side and to Poland on the other. Its king, Svatopluk, was a most powerful ruler and a great rival of the Emperor Arnolf (850–899), who in vain endeavoured to destroy his power. Arnolf therefore, upon the arrival of the Magyars in Europe, seized the opportunity to ally himself with Árpád, and, as a result, the Hungarians conquered a great portion of Svatopluk's lands, forming the whole of Upper Hungary. Amongst the dukes who were especially engaged in the great struggle, which extinguished the country famed for centuries, was Árpád himself; Huba, the ancestor of the Szemere family, Duke Ede, and Bors; and they between them captured the stronghold of Nyitra Zólyom, Galgócz, Trencsén, and all the districts along the Vág valley, and on the northern slopes of the Carpathians, and they became possessed of the enormous district which we are now about to visit.



NYITRA (IN THE VICINITY OF THE VÁG VALLEY)

THE SLOVÁKS

The Slováks, who are the descendants of the original inhabitants, speak a language similar to that of the Csechs and Moravians to whom they are related, which has a slight resemblance to Russian and other Slavish tongues. They have preserved their quaint attire and customs throughout centuries, and have never assimilated with the Hungarians. In habits they are rather backward, which is partly accounted for by their extreme poverty, the country they inhabit, though amongst the most beautiful mountain scenery in Hungary, being unproductive.

A large number of Slovaks have of late years emigrated to America, where they are employed in the mines, but usually they return to their native land. Their women are generally very pretty and fair, though they have not the intelligence of their Magyar sisters. The huts they inhabit are very primitive, and are often shared with the domestic animals. They are very superstitious, and they still hold in the greatest fear the witches, in whom they believe. They have some very quaint ceremonies connected with their weddings, christenings, and other religious observances.

THE VÁG VALLEY

Several lines lead from Budapest to the lofty and gigantic range of mountains which surrounds Hungary in a semicircle, but that along the winding River Vág is the most picturesque. As you proceed by the zigzag line your attention is riveted by the constant changes of scenery, and the various villages

THE HOUSE OF TECK

and hamlets distributed on the lofty heights where the picturesque castles and ruins entice you to gaze at them. This region is unquestionably one of the most beautiful in Hungary, rich alike in natural beauty and in places full of historical interest. Old ruined castles innumerable recall to mind the ancient times of chivalry when the Hungarians feudal lords kept Court in kingly state, and the people here still love to recite their legendary lore.

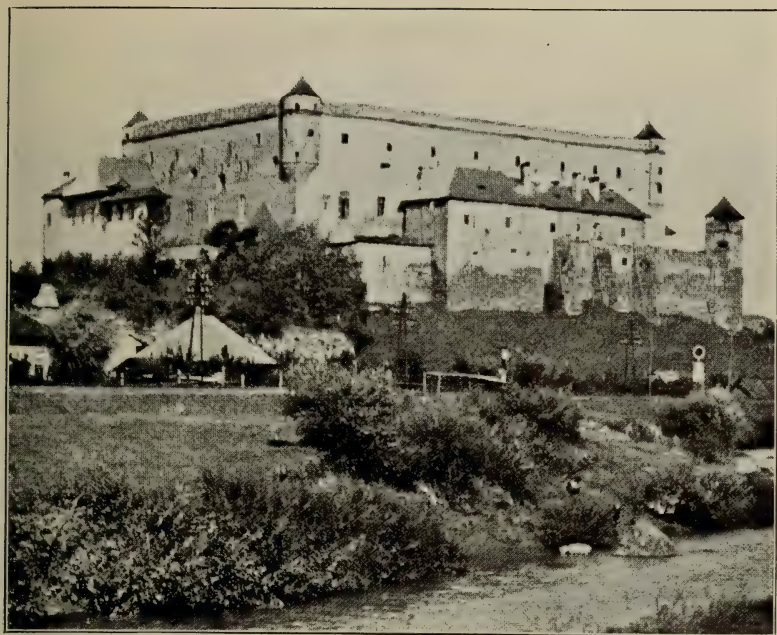
The Castle of Galgóc is the first to greet us just before we reach the world-renowned health resort of Pöstyén, but as we proceed along the wildly romantic Vág valley one castle after the other follows, and unfolds its romantic story, and relates to you the tragic scenes which were enacted under its walls.

THE CASTLE OF TRENCSEN

The ruined castle of Trencsén looms in the distance as we approach it, gradually growing in dimensions. There is a whole town on the summit of the precipitous rock. We can mount its tower, which is still undamaged, to enjoy the magnificent prospect. Its courtyards are separated by mighty walls, and the carved devices and ornamental windows that gape down upon us speak of the glorious past, and also of the time when the renowned oligarch, Matthew Csák, held sway here.

The castle has a story to tell of how its deep well was dug.

It appears that a distinguished Turkish woman was captured by the lord of the castle, who refused



THE CASTLE OF ZÓLYOM



THE CASTLE OF TRENCSEN

THE LOVERS' WELL

to restore her to her lover unless he bored a well within the castle walls. After terrible exertions, when the lovers had almost perished in their despair, the diggers finally struck water, and the lovers were restored to each other's arms.

The castle of *Csejte* has a more horrible story to tell, for there Elizabeth Báthory, the vain creature, mistress of the castle, who was desirous of being the only beauty in the district, allured within her walls all the prettiest Slovák maidens, and had them stifled so that she might have no rival. Horror of horrors ! This is no legend, but the cruel truth, which happened in the seventeenth century, and the inhuman fiend defied the authorities and defended herself in her stronghold for many months until she had finally to surrender to the Palatine, Count Thurzó, who, finding her insane, confined her to her castle. Her accomplices were condemned to be burnt.

Though one is apt at the commencement of the journey to compare the picturesque scenery here to that of the Rhine, so familiar to most of us, yet in proceeding further one finds it far excels it in many ways ; indeed, it claims to be unique, for no prettier scene can be imagined than the quaint and rustic-looking Slovaks in their picturesque attire coming down the stream on their rafts, singing their plaintive and melodious native ballads, and giving a solemnity to the already majestic landscape of nature.

And so, as we roll along, castle after castle appears and disappears. Here we see *Beczko*, which still defies the ravages of time. *Temetvény*, which rises out of a wilderness of trees, and the imposing *Zólyom*

THE HOUSE OF TECK

Castle. In the distance stands out the Castle of Oroszlánkő (Lion Stone), which is high on the dizzy summit of a precipitous rock.

We are now in the Liptó country, the land of the Slováks, and on our way to the Zips country (Szepes), the home for many centuries of the Thuringian settlers; and passing the imposing castle of Árva and numerous other ancient towns and ruins, we catch a glimpse of the High Tátra, and see before us a scene which will for ever be remembered by those privileged to gaze thereon.

THE HIGH TÁTRA

Long before you reach Poprád, which is one of the railway termini for Tátra Füred, you see the immense Tátra range dazzling in eternal snow, its immense pine forests covered with icicles, glittering in the sun, emitting the colours of the most precious of Brazilian diamonds, and as one is driven along by fiery Hungarian horses, and reaches Tátra Füred, the spectacle increases in its fantastic extravagance. Who could attempt to describe the beautiful scene that one beholds from the terrace of the Grand Hotel, "Nagy Szálloda"? Nature has lavishly bestowed her bounties on this district. It requires more than the ordinary mind not to feel overpowered by the impression that this grand spectacle offers. One does not know where to look first. Shall you gaze upon the beautiful pine-clad heights, the summits of which glitter with their eternal crown of snow, on which the violet



TRENCSEN (NORTHERN HIGHLANDS), HUNGARY

A FAIRY LAND

hues of the rising sun are reflected, or on the numerous lakelets, waterfalls, and streams that glitter on the surface of the mountains like stars in the heavens ? Or shall you turn your eyes down into the valley where lie the three different Tátra-Füreds, or further still, where the beautiful Zips towns, with their quaint, turreted castles and domes glisten with the colour of gold in the glorious sunshine. No words can express the magnificence of this spectacle. The Zips is a fairyland, and this is a fairy picture ! It is no wonder that the Hungarian fairies themselves like to be cradled here.

Every inch of ground is full of interest, and the surrounding peaks, lakes, waterfalls, and caves, give you an idea of the grandeur of the Carpathians. The mighty peak of Lomnicz in the Zips frowns down upon us, and the majestic Kriván in the Liptó country attracts no less our attention. Here, amidst dense pine-forests, stretches before us the immense Lake Csorba, in the vicinity of which is the Barlang Liget, the loveliest spot in the High Tátra. Here the Vöröstó (Red Lake), Fehér (White Lake), and the Zöldtó (Green Lake) proudly display on their surface the national colours of Hungary, and, coquetting with each other, tell you the legendary stories of their past. Now, listen.

LEGENDS OF THE TÁTRA

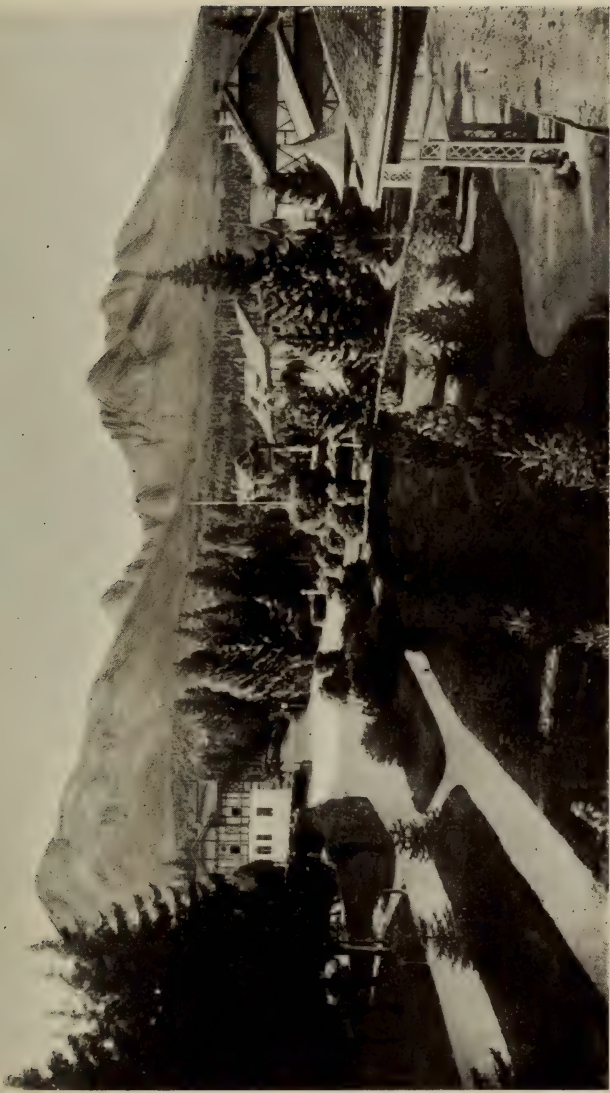
Once upon a time a fairy prince had his diamond castle near the Black Lake, where the huge cliff cuts off the rays of the sun and deprives the whole district

THE HOUSE OF TECK

of light. He became enamoured of his neighbour, the fairy princess inhabiting the regions of the Green Lake, whom he espoused, and she, by her magic power, put a huge carbuncle on the cliff, which threw its light over the entire district; but one day the fairy princess saw the King of the Tátra, to whom she lost her heart. From that moment her magic power left her. The carbuncle no longer shone. The prince, mad with grief, threw himself with curses into the Black Lake. The Tátra King, who married the princess, deserted her soon afterwards, and she has to suffer for the curses of her first husband, for, according to the story, she is still alive and her plaintive voice is yet to be heard crying in the mountains.

How far this legend can be credited I would not like to say, but one thing is certain, that a large quantity of carbuncles have been found on the mountains and are still preserved in the National Museum.

Close to the Zöldtó (Green Lake) there is a mountain, called Rézut (Copper-way), and here, as a rule, those who are in search of gold and other mineral wealth attempt to make discoveries. According to the legend the mountain spirits guard a quantity of hidden treasures, and will only show the way to their hiding-place to those who remain faithful to their lovers throughout their lives. Is it not strange that up till now no such lucky individual has been found? There are many other legendary stories about every peak and rock. But in this twentieth century people somehow commence to doubt the existence of fairies, and what generally



TÁTRA FÜRED (IN THE HIGH TÁTRA MOUNTAINS, HUNGARY)

A MOONLIGHT TRAGEDY

attracts the stranger to this region is Tátra-Füred, or, rather, the three Tátra-Füreds, the oldest and most fashionable of Carpathian health resorts. But they have now a formidable rival in Tátra-Lomnicz, which has been recently developed at great expense by the Government.

It will be of interest to state that at Tátra-Lomnicz, many centuries ago, one of the Rhédey family had a sporting retreat. His feudal retainers were in terror of the place for fear of the spirits which haunted the Tátra district, and in the end he was murdered by his servant on his return one moonlight evening from a hunting expedition. The poor servant, who had not slept for weeks, out of fear of ghosts, had lost his reason and gone raving mad ; seeing his master's figure at a distance lit up by the pale moonlight, he took it for granted that it was the evil spirit of the Tátra, and, without awaiting his nearer approach, drew his bow and slew his master.

The entire region abounds with places of beauty and entices you to remain and dwell upon their charm, but having to describe so many other districts which have a closer connection with the subject of this volume, we must regretfully quit this enchanting land, bid good-bye to the fairies at the lovely town of Poprád, and pay a hurried visit to the famous ice caves of Dobsina, one of the wonders of nature, an enormous mass of ice which continually changes in its whimsical sportiveness, offering the most varied formations.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

THE ZIPS

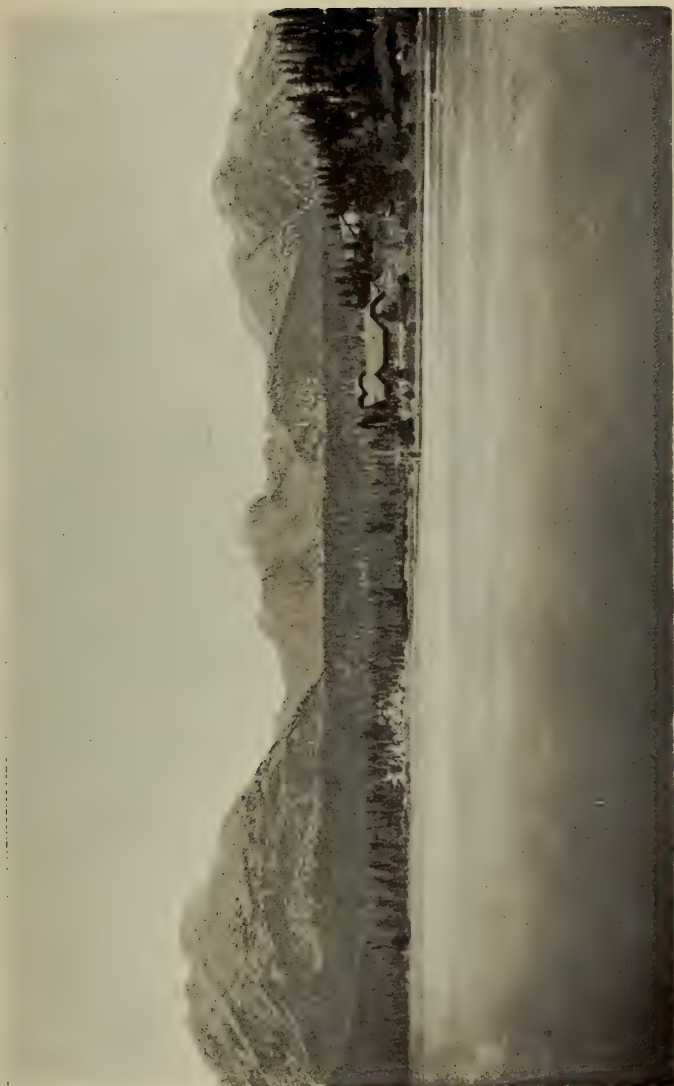
We are now in the land of the Zips, and amongst the Thuringian colony whose ancestors settled here in the thirteenth century, through Princess St. Elizabeth of Hungary, who was married to Prince Louis of Thuringia.* The people have been granted special privileges for the preservation of their ancient rights, and they were always ruled by a *comes* of their own.

The Thuringians established sixteen flourishing free cities, and out of these thirteen were pawned by King Sigismund to Ladislaus Jagellon, the King of Poland, and it was only in the time of Maria Theresia, during the division of Poland, that they were incorporated with Hungary. Many of their privileges have been taken away ; nevertheless they still maintain the right of self-administration.

Of course the Poles have left many traces behind, and the Polish language is generally understood.

The Thuringians speak Hungarian as well as German, and have for the most part adopted the national Hungarian costume. They are most patriotic, and like to be considered more Magyar than the Magyars themselves. They are very industrious, and it is due to them that the Zips is now one of the most flourishing districts of the Hungarian kingdom.

* Most Hungarian historians refer to the Zips people as having settled in Hungary as early as the twelfth century, in the rule of Béla II. (1131-1141), but the Thuringians themselves declare that their ancestors only arrived here in the reign of Andrew II. (1205-1235).



LAKE CSORBA (HIGH TÁTRA MOUNTAINS, HUNGARY)

THE THURINGIANS

Walking along the quaint but beautiful streets of Lőcse, Késmárk and Igló, which cities were founded by them, and looking at the mediæval buildings, and the good people who have preserved throughout so many centuries their picturesque costume and the dialect of their ancient home, one is reminded of Thuringia of old and the Landgraves of Swabia, associated with St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY

Whilst on this fascinating subject it is very interesting to refer here briefly to the life of St. Elizabeth, who was so closely connected with both the paternal and maternal ancestors of Her Majesty's father, the late Duke of Teck. Her life was a life of romances, a life full of noble self-denial and deprivation, which for centuries has supplied a favourite theme for poets, composers, and painters.

The romance of her childhood and the sad story of her life is admirably related in Count Montalembert's "Life of St. Elizabeth," so ably translated by Mary Hackett and published by James Duffy and Co., Dublin.

It happened in the year 1206 that Duke Hermann, the powerful and renowned Landgrave of Thuringia, being at his castle at Wartburg, situated on a height above the town of Eisenach, assembled at his Court six of the most renowned poets of Germany.

A violent rivalry was soon declared between the five poets of noble birth and Heinrich Schreiber,

THE HOUSE OF TECK

who was at least their equal in talent and popularity. Tradition accuses them of having sought his life, and relates that one day the five rushed upon him and would have killed him, but that he escaped and took refuge with the Duchess Sophia, who hid him under the folds of her mantle. When this occurred the duke was engaged in hunting.

To put an end to their differences, they agreed to meet in a public and final combat before the duke and his Court ; they also required the presence of the executioner, rope in hand, and he was to hang, during the sitting of the assembly, him whose verses should be declared inferior to those of his rivals, thus showing that in their eyes glory and life were inseparable. The duke consented, and himself presided at this solemn strife, the fame whereof was spread throughout Germany, and at which assembled a crowd of knights and nobles.

The combatants sung by turns, and in the most varied forms, the eulogiums of their favourite princes, and the great mysteries of religion. The songs are still preserved under the title of " The War of Wartburg."

As it was impossible to decide the merits of the rival minstrels, it was agreed that Heinrich D'Ofterdingen should set out for Transylvania, there to seek the renowned master, Klingsohr, so celebrated for his knowledge of the seven liberal arts, and for his proficiency in astronomy and necromancy.

Klingsohr, being arrived at Eisenach, sojourned at the hostel of Henry Hellgref, at the left side of St. George's Gate, and descended on the evening of his

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arrival into the garden of his host, wherein were several of the nobles of Hesse and Thuringia, come expressly to visit him ; there were also officers of the ducal Court, and a number of honest townsmen of Eisenach, who, according to ancient and still-existing custom in Germany, came there to drink the evening cup. These good people surrounded the sage, and asked him to tell them something new, and after contemplating the stars for a long time, he said at length, " I shall tell you something both new and joyous. I see a beautiful star rising in Hungary, the rays of which extend to Marburg, and from Marburg all over the world. Know even that on this night there is born to my lord, the King of Hungary, a daughter, who shall be named Elizabeth. She shall be given in marriage to the son of your prince, who shall become a saint, and her sanctity shall rejoice and console all Christendom."

The bystanders heard these words with great joy, and next morning the knights returned to Wartburg to tell the news to the Landgrave, whom they met as they were going to mass. It was a matter of surprise to the prince and to the whole Court, and, calling for his horse, the Landgrave went with a numerous escort to visit Klingsohr, and to entreat him to return with him to Wartburg.

The Landgrave made him dine at the royal table, and after the repast they conversed for a long time. Hermann, whose paternal anxiety was already awakened, asked him many questions relative to the affairs of Hungary. Klingsohr satisfied his curiosity by entering into all these details ; after which he

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engaged himself in the great cause which had brought him to Eisenach. He presided at the new contest of the poets, and succeeded in allaying the hatred which the noble rivals entertained against Heinrich, and made them publicly recognise his merit. He then returned to Hungary.

Hungary at this period was ruled by King Andrew II., a king famous for his piety and generosity to the Church and poor. Andrew's Queen was Gertrude of Meran, and belonged to one of the most illustrious houses of the Empire in the thirteenth century—the house of Hohenstaufen.

One of her sisters, afterwards canonised, was Hedwiga, Duchess of Silesia and Poland; another, Agnes, so celebrated for her beauty and misfortunes, was wife to Philip Augustus, King of France.

In the year 1207, on the day and at the hour announced by Klingsohr, at Eisenach, Queen Gertrude being then at Pressburg (Pozsony) gave birth to a daughter, who received the name of Elizabeth. The ceremonies of her baptism were conducted with great magnificence, the royal babe was carried to the church under a canopy of the richest stuffs that could be procured at Buda, which at that time was the centre of royal splendour.

From the cradle this child gave pledges of the sublime destiny for which she was intended.

Meanwhile, Duke Hermann left no means untried to find out if the prediction of Klingsohr had come to pass, and whether a princess was born in Hungary on the day he foretold. And when he learned of her birth, he conceived a most ardent desire to see the



POPRÁD, NORTHERN HIGHLANDS, HUNGARY

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prediction entirely accomplished, and his young son, Louis, espoused to Elizabeth.

Hermann decided to send an embassy, composed of lords and noble ladies, to the King of Hungary, to demand of him, in the name of young Louis, the hand of Elizabeth, and, if possible, to bring her with them to Thuringia. The ambassadors had at least thirty horses in their train, and on their way to Hungary were received by the greatest princes and prelates. Happily arrived at Pressburg, they were entertained with royal hospitality and a great number of masses were offered on the morning of their entrance to that city. When they opened to King Andrew the object of their mission, he assembled his council to deliberate the demand of the Duke of Thuringia.

Klingsohr upheld it warmly, and, in a discourse which serves as a picture of Thuringia of that period, he showed forth the riches and power of the Landgrave Hermann, "drinking strong beer and eating good white bread." He then eulogised the personal character of the duke, and added that the young Louis appeared to him to possess all the good qualities that could be expected at his age. Queen Gertrude also approved of the request of Hermann, and Andrew, yielding to her influence, agreed to part with his beloved child. But before he would permit her to set out, he wished to celebrate a feast in her honour, and having assembled all the nobles and their ladies, he ordered brilliant rejoicings. The games, dances, music, and the songs of the minstrels lasted during three days, after which the Thuringian ambassadors

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took leave of the king. The attendants brought with them the little Elizabeth, then aged four years, and, covering her with a silken robe, embroidered in gold, laid her in a cradle of massive silver, and thus gave her into the care of the Thuringians.

The king said to the Lord de Varila, "I confide to thy knightly honour my sweetest consolation." The queen also came weeping and recommending her child to his care. The knight answered them thus : "I shall willingly take charge of her, and will always be her faithful servant." Before leaving Pressburg, the ambassadors received from the king and queen presents of immense value, some for themselves, and some to be brought to Duke Hermann, as the dower of the princess.

Contemporary narratives enumerate in detail these presents, saying that never were seen in Thuringia things so precious and beautiful.

The ambassadors at last set out. They had come with two carriages and returned with thirteen, so greatly had their luggage increased. King Andrew confided to them thirteen noble Hungarian maidens as companions to his daughter, all of whom Duke Hermann dowered and had married in Thuringia. The journey homewards was performed without delay : as soon as Duke Hermann and the Duchess Sophia received news of their approach and the success of their mission, they ordered great rejoicings and prayers. They then descended from Wartburg to Eisenach to receive the ambassadors with the great pomp due to the exalted ranks.

The princess, aged four years, was solemnly

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affianced to the Duke Louis, who was then eleven. There were then, as at Pressburg, sumptuous banquets and festivals, at which poetry, the principal magnificence of the Court of Thuringia, shone with its accustomed brilliancy. Dating from this time Elizabeth never left him who was to be her husband, and whom she then called her brother.

On Elizabeth's arrival in Thuringia the Landgrave selected to be her companions seven maidens of the most noble houses of his dominions, amongst whom was his own daughter Agnes ; all were about the age of the young princess and were brought up with her.

From this tender age all her thoughts and feelings seemed to be centred in the desire of meriting Heaven, and whenever an opportunity offered, she went to the castle chapel, and there, lying at the foot of the altar, gave herself up with wonderful recollection to meditation and prayer. She was most humble and associated herself with people far below her rank.

This soon awakened against her the discontent of the officers of the ducal house, and all the ladies of the Court, including Agnes, her future sister-in-law, were angered by this conduct, which they considered beneath the dignity of a royal princess.

The death of Hermann was a misfortune to Elizabeth. He had always treated her as his own daughter, and during his life no one dared to interfere in her religious practices.

But after his death it was no longer so. Though Louis, whom she looked upon as her betrothed and

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her lord, had become sovereign of the country, his extreme youth made him in some measure dependent on his mother, the Duchess Sophia, daughter of the celebrated Otto de Wittlesbach, Duke of Bavaria. This princess saw with displeasure Elizabeth's great devotion, and showed her discontent at it. The other young girls of her Court, companions to the two princesses, seeing that every day Elizabeth took less share in their games, dances, and frivolous life, used to repeat what they heard Agnes say, and would openly mock her.

Alone in the midst of this Court, the young Duke Louis was not prejudiced against her ; his love for her increased every day, and so intense was his love for her that when asked by one of his courtiers if he really loved her and intended to marry her, his answer was, " Dost thou see that mountain before us ? Well ! if it were of pure gold from its base to its summit, and that all should be given to me on the condition of sending away my Elizabeth, I would never do it. Let them think or say of her what they please ; I say this, that I love her, and love nothing better in this world. I will have my Elizabeth ; she is dearer to me for her virtue and piety than all the kingdoms and riches of the earth."

In due course Prince Louis and Elizabeth were married, and very beautiful are the stories told of their great devotion, humility and charity. In the terrible famine which devastated Thuringia, the tales told of St. Elizabeth's personal sacrifices are touching in the extreme.

It was, perhaps, but fitting that in the great



THE TOWN HALL OF LÓCSE, NORTHERN HIGHLANDS, HUNGARY

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religious movements which brought about the Crusades, Louis of Thuringia should take a leading part, he determining to visit the Holy Land, but sad was the grief of the young couple when the moment came for separation.

Returning to her lonely home, she laid aside her royal robes, and with a sad presentiment assumed the costume that she was never again to leave off—that of a widow's mourning.

Elizabeth's presentiment proved, alas ! only too true, for Louis, arrived at Brindisi, fell sick of a fever which proved fatal. On his deathbed he charged one of the knights to go and announce his death to his dear Elizabeth, by bringing to her the ring he had shown her when parting, and which, as then agreed upon between them, was to be to her the token of all that concerned him.

It is from this period that commences the more familiar and saintly incidents of St. Elizabeth's career. By her cruel and heartless brother-in-law, the Landgrave Henry the Raspen, who had usurped the throne which by rights belonged to Elizabeth's eldest son, she was driven out of her castle with her little children, and reduced to a state of misery.

Duke Henry had caused a proclamation to be made in the city that whoever would receive the Duchess Elizabeth or her children would thereby incur his displeasure ; and with an ingratitude far more revolting than the cowardly baseness of the order, all the inhabitants of Eisenbach obeyed it. In vain did the unhappy Princess go, surrounded by her little ones, weeping and knocking at every door,

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even to the houses of those who had formerly testified the greatest attachment to her, but nowhere was she admitted.

At length she came to a miserable tavern, whence the owner neither could nor would send her away, for she declared that his house was open to everyone and that she would remain there.

“ They have taken from me all that I had,” said she, weeping, “ now I can but pray to God ! ” The innkeeper assigned as a resting-place during the night for herself, her children, and her maidens, a miserable outhouse wherein he kept his kitchen utensils, and where also he lodged his swine. These he drove out to give their place to the Duchess of Thuringia, the Royal Princess of Hungary.

Some friendly persons, whose names have not been preserved by history, having heard of the state to which she was reduced, offered to take charge of her little ones, and she was obliged to consent to their removal, as it was impossible for her to provide them with sufficient sustenance.

Her aunt, the Abbess of Babenberg, heard of her misery and offered her shelter. Upon the return of the Crusaders, Elizabeth laid her complaint before the knights, and through them she was restored to all her property, and her brother-in-law Henry asked for her forgiveness. Elizabeth, however, preferred to live a humble life, and used her fortune for the good of the needy and sick.

The sufferings of Elizabeth during this unhappy period of her life and the sweet resignation with which she endured her martyrdom, belong to the

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pages of the "Legends of the Saints." St. Elizabeth, renouncing worldly life, retired to Marburg, and there assumed the habit of the Order of St. Francis. Her love for the poor occupied in her heart all that was not devoted to prayer and contemplation. She preferred to the pomp of this world's power, the humiliation of God's poor people, and associated herself with them as much as possible by the practice of voluntary poverty.

Many are the stories told of the great poverty in which she lived ; she sold all the jewels sent her by her relatives in Hungary, and distributed among the poor all her property, and finally, worn out by her good works, she died at the early age of twenty-four, or, as her biographer, Montalembert, poetically puts it, "She was summoned to the eternal wedding-feast" (1231).

The fame of her life and death spread far and wide ; miracles were worked through her intercession, and thousands of pilgrims for generations visited her holy shrine at Marburg, and placed upon it costly offerings. But Elizabeth, who was not given peace in this world, was also destined to be pursued by the persecutors of her family in her grave, for the story is a well-known one how, in the middle of the sixteenth century, the Landgrave Philip of Hesse, belonging to the same stock as did the Dukes of Würtemberg, and himself a direct descendant of St. Elizabeth, desecrated her shrine in his religious zeal for the new Reformed faith. According to Montalembert's version, the Landgrave's object was to become possessed of the precious relics

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which were placed in her shrine, and which legend claimed to represent fabulous wealth. For the sake of that dynasty which has supplied so many illustrious ancestors and descendants, let us hope that the following account of Montalembert may have been somewhat inspired by religious prejudice, though there can be no denial of the desecration of her shrine by her descendant. In accordance with Montalembert's version, the Landgrave sent for the blacksmiths to bring their tools that they might force open her tomb. The necessary tools were soon brought, and when the workmen had made the breach, the Prince cried out: "Oh, oh! Thank God, here, then, are the relics of St. Elizabeth! Behold my bones and her bones! Come hither, behold my grandmama!" Then this worthy descendant of a saint, turning to the guardian of her grave, said, "It is very heavy, my lord commander; I would be glad if it were full of crown pieces, but there will also be, I hope, some good old Hungarian florins." The shrine was opened; the Landgrave put in his hand and drew forth a casket lined with red satin. It contained the relics of the saint. The Landgrave himself cut away a piece of the shrine, which he thought was of massive gold. He had it assayed by a goldsmith, and finding that it was of copper gilt, he cried out, "How these priests deceive people! They have made this shrine of copper, and kept all the gold for themselves." Philip carried these treasures to the castle of Ziegenhayn, and under the pressure of the Emperor Charles V., who was highly incensed at this outrage, Philip had to



THE WHITE LADY OF LÓCSE

Reproduced from a Painting in the Museum of Decorative Arts at Budapest

SAINT ELIZABETH'S ARM

restore to the church of Marburg the relics of the saint; but they were never more placed in the shrine, and they were completely dispersed. One of the arms was sent to Hungary, other portions preserved at Vienna, Cologne, and elsewhere. But Philip is not the only descendant who was accused of making capital of the remains of his ancestor, for in 1833 the Count de Boss-Waldeck possessed one of the saint's arms, which he offered for sale to several sovereigns who reckoned her amongst their ancestors, but without being able to find a purchaser.

THE WHITE LADY OF LŐCSE

But not only St. Elizabeth, everything in the Zips reminds one of the former Swabia; in fact, curiously enough, as in Swabia, there is also a story of the White Lady, but with this difference, that unlike her namesake in Swabia, she could not prove her descent from His Satanic Majesty. The White Lady of Lőcse was a different kind of demon altogether. She belonged to the earthly demons, who like to enslave everyone who comes within the spell of their magic and alluring eyes. Many were those who lost their hearts to her, and amongst these Ferencz Rákóczy II. accused one of his generals, Andrásy, that whilst he was gazing into the bewitching eyes of the White Lady, she managed to snatch the key of the fort from his pocket, and subsequently opened the gates to the besieging German forces, the consequence of which led to Rákóczy's defeat.

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Though Jókai in his romance of "The White Lady" upholds Rákóczy's views, history has absolved her of this accusation, and romancers suggest that Andrassy was also gazing into the pretty eyes of other ladies, so there is no evidence that it was the White Lady of Lőcse who managed to get possession of the keys of the fort. The only mysterious point in connection with "the White Lady" is that a century and a half later, some time before the great national war, she was seen standing in a threatening attitude at one of the windows of the castle tower, as if she was about to avenge herself for this accusation. This apparition, curiously enough, coincided with the discovery of her portrait at the very window at which she appeared.

CHAPTER XVIII

NORTHERN HUNGARY

We now take our departure from these enchanted surroundings on our way backward.

Many are the beautiful places that attract us on our way to Kassa, and more still are those that we should like to visit in the interior of the land. The romantic castle of Murány, elsewhere referred to, and those of Csetek and Rozsnyó and Krasznahorka, the cradle home of the great Andrassy family, are all here close by.

At *Gömör* one of the greatest wonders on earth is to be seen. It is the stalactite cave of Aggtelek, with its many cells, where prehistoric remains have been found, together with cooking utensils, which prove that the people in those days practised cannibalism. Many other relics of the Stone and Bronze Period have been brought to light here.

On the left bank of our route is situated the county of Sáros, full of historical associations with the great hero, Francis Rákóczy. At the ancient city of Eperjes, we are reminded of the cruel and harsh days of the seventeenth century, when license was given to Caraffa, the Austrian general, to erect a scaffold, and many of the bravest sons of Hungary were hung without being given a chance of a trial. Here also, and in the vicinity of the adjoining town of Bártfa, we come across many interesting relics,

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and some connected with that great hero Thököli, and his stepson Francis Rákóczy II., and the once celebrated hundred lime-trees under which Rákóczy used to sign his proclamations are situated near the latter place. It was also here in this county where Rákóczy was once captured, and whence he finally left the country.

Numerous are the castles and ruins which remind one of his former might and power, and many are the stories related how often he eluded capture by his German pursuers, by having the shoes of his horses turned the wrong way, and escaping through the many subterranean passages which connected his numerous castles scattered over an immense tract of country ; how all of a sudden he would appear when his enemies least expected him, and capture their position.

THE RÁKÓCZY MARCH

It will be of interest here to state how the famous Rákóczy March was composed in honour of that hero. The effect that this march had upon the people was magical ; and at the first note thousands of his followers would collect under his banner, yet no one knew who composed the music.

Just as Rákóczy, after his defeat and pursuit by his enemies, was about to cross the frontier for Poland, he and his followers were attracted by the sound of the Rákóczy March played on the road by a gipsy maiden in a sad and melancholy tone and with a pathos with which it had never been played

GIPSY CZINKA PANNA

before. He suddenly stopped and beckoned the girl to approach, and said, "Who taught you, gipsy, to play the march better than I have ever heard it before?"

The gipsy girl approached timidly, and with her face crimson with blushes, her eyes full of fire, answered with great passion, "No one has taught me to play it. It is I who taught others to do so."

"What! Can this be true? Is it you, then, who composed this march which has inspired my men in so many victories?"

"Yes, sire," replied the girl. "It is I, Gipsy Czinka Panna, who composed the march"; but with tears in her eyes she exclaimed, "I will never play it any more; the stars tell me that he in whose honour I composed it will never see the soil of his native land again;" and, saying this, she threw aside with passion her fiddle, and the poor girl, who evidently, like many others of her sex, was captivated by the heroism and personal charm of Rákóczy, fell sobbing to the ground. Rákóczy tenderly raised her up, and saying, "Let this be my gratitude to you," impressed a kiss upon her brow.

"Go on, play the air once more, that its sweet tune may accompany me across the border in my exile."

The pursuers of Rákóczy were now close upon the fugitives. Rákóczy, once more turning back to take leave of his native country, and once more thanking the gipsy maiden whose march had given so much inspiration to patriotism, said, "Play away, Czinka Panna, your march, for as long as it will be

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heard in Hungary it will inspire love and freedom for the country," and he and his horsemen disappeared from sight.

Czinka Panna read the stars only too well for Rákóczy, as he never saw his native land again, but the Rákóczy March is still played, and no true Hungarian can listen to its strains without being roused to patriotic enthusiasm for the native country.

KASSA

We are now at the beautiful city of Kassa, the capital of Upper Hungary, and at the same time of the county of Aba-Uj-Torna, named after the Aba family, who built here a great fortified castle in 1038, the most important in Upper Hungary. In the twelfth century it passed into the hands of Maté Csák, who seized so many estates from the family during the absence of its chief in the Crusades. Many relics all through this beautiful county, the finest in Hungary, serve to remind us of the power and glory of this great House, and its inhabitants are proud that its name should be derived from one of the bravest of the seven dukes who accompanied Árpád during his historic conquest of Hungary.

Kassa itself—which is named the Little Paris—is a very interesting town and has been the scene of many remarkable events. Its close proximity to Poland made it in ancient days the meeting-place between the kings of Hungary and those of Poland, and the members of the House of Aba, who, as we have already previously shown, were closely con-



THE CATHEDRAL, KASSA

A KING IN TROUBLE

nected with both royal Houses. Louis the Great of Hungary, under whom Poland was united with Hungary, held his Assembly at Kassa in 1374, and his daughter Hedwiga, who afterwards became Queen of Poland, was greatly attached to the place and kept up a correspondence with her relations in the county. Her sister, Queen Maria, also visited the town with her husband, King Sigismund (also Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire), and the presence of the latter monarch, who was always hard up, must have become a nuisance to the Aba family, who, as the relations of his wife, in the ordinary way would have been his first victims. However, the family was rich enough, and Sigismund, who pawned several of his provinces to Poland and sold Brandenburg to the Hohenzollerns for a mere song (and thus laid the foundation of the future greatness of the Hohenzollern family), was satisfied with trifles.

But Sigismund was not the only king who ran short of money at Kassa. Another king, and the greatest that ever sat on the Hungarian throne, King Matthias Corvinus, was in the same trouble, and when he visited Kassa with his queen, in 1478, he had to borrow two florins from the town in order that he should be able to return to Buda in a kingly style (*more regio*). Happy times were those !

In the seventeenth century the town passed into the hands of the Transylvanian princes, and many were the charters which were granted here to the Rhédey family for their bravery in the defence of the country.

As to variety of nationalities, Kassa perhaps

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takes the lead in Hungary, it being inhabited by Hungarians, Slováks, and Poles, and also the Thuringians whose acquaintance we have made in the Zips. The town boasts one of the finest cathedrals in the country, which was commenced in the early part of the thirteenth century by the Thuringians, in honour of St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

The cathedral was completed by her namesake Elizabeth, the Queen of Poland, who was a Hungarian princess.

It is interesting to note that in connection with Kassa, in the year 1521 a certain John Knox, an English preacher, came to that town and was the first to introduce the Lutheran religion. Whether John Knox had any connection with the family of the great reformer, it is, of course, impossible to say, though the date might lead one to believe this was the case. At Kassa one of the most famous prelates of Hungary, Bishop Bubics, resided for many years, until he died recently. It was he who restored the cathedral. He was one of the greatest patrons of Hungarian art, and presented a magnificent collection of pictures and rare *objets d'art* to the National Museum. He was one of the first to discover the great artistic talent of the now famous Hungarian painter, Philip László, to whom he became greatly attached, and many are the pictures that Philip László painted at the Bishop's beautiful palace at Kassa and also at his town residence at Budapest. The Bishop took a paternal interest in his career and shared his triumphs with the greatest pride.

Life at Kassa is very pleasant. It is the rendez-

KASSA

vous of the nobility of Upper Hungary and, as such, a great deal of gaiety is going on. On Sundays and market-days it is quite a sight to see the mixture of Hungarians, Slovaks (who dress very neatly and smartly here), Poles, and Germans, attired in their respective national costumes, walking up and down the public parks to the strains of a gipsy band.

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CHAPTER XIX

THE NORTH-EAST OF HUNGARY

From Kassa we proceed further to what is called the North-East of Hungary, and we reach in no time S. A. Ujhely, the capital of Zemplén, so famous for having given birth to Hungary's greatest sons, for here in this country, with which the history of Her Majesty's Hungarian ancestors is so interwoven, were born Bocskay and Francis Rákóczy II., and here also in the last century the great patriot Louis Kossuth and Count Julius Andrássy, Hungary's greatest statesman, first saw the light. There are other reasons also of which the country has reason to be proud, for here at S. A. Ujhely and in the adjoining towns of Mád, Szerencs, and Tokaj, the best of Hungarian wines are grown, and under the name of Tokaj have been known and cherished throughout the civilised world for centuries and centuries. A genuine bottle of Tokaj is one of the greatest luxuries, and is priceless, and seldom finds its way to other countries. The Emperor-King owns vineyards in the district, and reserves the best brands for gifts to his sovereign brothers. Count Elemér Lónyay, the husband of Princess Stephanie, who has a large estate and a beautiful castle at Bodrog Olaszi, in the county of Zemplén, is one of the largest wine-growers, and the quality of wines produced there is specially prized, though they hardly ever go out of the family.



SCENE IN THE ALFÖLD
HUNGARIAN LOWLANDS

THE TOKAJ DISTRICT

There are many interesting towns in this county, and amongst the numerous castles owned all over Hungary by Francis Rákóczy II., the one at Sáros Patak was his favourite residence. There is a very large Protestant college in that town which was endowed by the Rákóczy family prior to their being forced by the Vienna Court to become Catholics.

S. A. Ujhely itself is a picturesque town situated at the foot of three tent-shaped hills, which gave the name to the town, and very much resemble in appearance the Pyramids, but instead of the vast barren desert, have as their backgrounds the smiling vineyards that render this region so famous. During the vintage the entire district teems with people from all parts of the world, and it is a grand sight to see the vintage and the great variety of peasants in their gay national garb, making merry to the accompaniment of the native gipsy music, whose strange and melodious songs find an echo in the hills around.

UNGVÁR

Leaving the last slopes of the Carpathian Mountains, we cross a portion of flat land only to gain the Carpathians again at Ungvár, which town played an important part in the history of Her Majesty's ancestors, for Ungvár was one of the first places that Árpád and the seven dukes who accompanied him conquered at the time of their invasion of Hungary, and the town and River Ung took their name from the Hungarian race, Ungvár (fort of Ung). It is a picturesque place, and its castle and beautiful

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bishop's palace attract attention immediately we catch a glimpse of the town. In the many wars in which Hungary was plunged during the thousand years of its existence as a State, Ungvár has had its full share. The once famous castle is now a prison. The inhabitants of the town are principally Hungarians, Ruthenians, some Poles, and a variety of other nationalities.

MUNKÁCS

Interesting, however, as Ungvár is from an historical point of view, it is entirely eclipsed by the neighbouring city of Munkács, which prides itself on having been the first town that the Hungarians conquered after leaving their original home in the Ural Mountains and wandering for a long time across the Khirghizian Steppes and the heights of the Caucasian Mountains in quest of the cherished land, which they at last reached. The Magyars had no easy task in taking the place, for the once powerful kingdom of the Huns was now divided between several rulers. Zalán was the prince of the Slavs and Bulgars, and his territory stretched between the Danube and the Tisza, right to the Carpathian Mountains. Memrod was master of the territory along the Rivers Tisza (Theiss), Maros, and Szamos. Gelon was prince of the Wallachians in Transylvania; Gád was the ruler of the country between the Rivers Maros and Szamos. On the other side of the Danube there were Frankish settlements, whilst Svatopluk, the mightiest of all, was the King of Great Moravia.

THE SWORD OF ATTILA

Many were the onslaughts of the Magyars against the fortified positions held by the combined forces before Munkács, and brave indeed was the defence, but Árpád vowed by the sword of Attila, which tradition holds was handed down to the Magyars and he as their leader carried, that the place should surrender, and so it did. Kissing the soil of the land, he assembled round him the seven dukes, who named the place Munkács, signifying in Hungarian that it involved a great difficulty in taking it.

It was also at Munkács that the different princes, except Zalán, offered their submission to Árpád, and accepted the rule of the Magyars over their country. This historic episode, the greatest in the history of the Hungarian kingdom, has been immortalised by the brush of Hungary's greatest painter, Michael Munkácsy, who was a native of Munkács. In this masterpiece we see the former chief of Hungary paying homage to Árpád and the seven dukes, amongst whom a conspicuous place is given to Duke Ede, the ancestor of Her Majesty.

THE ZALÁN LEGEND

There is a very pretty legend how Árpád became possessed of Zalán's lands. After the submission of the princes who ruled Hungary, except the land of Zalán, Árpád sent his emissaries to the former prince with the request to surrender to him the country of the Huns, and at the same time sent him presents of horses, camels, and slaves, in return for which he asked a piece of grass from his country, and

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a bottle of water from the Danube, as he wanted to see if the land was as green as that in Asia; and wished to taste if the water was as sweet as that of the river Don. Árpád's envoys were well received, and Zalán sent him what he asked for, but made no definite promise of surrendering the country. Árpád, however, on receipt of the news immediately advanced towards Zalán, and showing to him the gifts that he had sent him, said to the prince, "Behold, this is the emblem that you have sold me the land all along the Danube for those presents." Zalán, seeing that he had no chance of resistance against Árpád's brave army, gave his submission. After this final victory the Magyars held their first assembly on the hills of Puszta-Szer, where Árpád was proclaimed Hereditary Duke of Hungary. The Seven Dukes, however, who were of the same blood as himself were, by special agreement, to share the ownership of the land, which was divided into eight portions, Árpád taking the largest share. It was in this way that Duke Ede, one of the bravest of the dukes, became possessed of such a vast extent of territory, the major portion of which, in centuries to come, was lost by his descendants for no other reason than because they bravely fought for that soil which their ancestors had conquered. Such is the reward of Fate!

ILONA ZRINYI, HUNGARY'S HEROINE

It will, perhaps, be of interest to refer here at greater length to this most popular female figure in the history of Hungary, to whom we have often

ILONA ZRINYI

referred, especially as a family connection exists between her and that of the ancestors of Her Majesty Queen Mary.

In Ilona Zrinyi were combined all the qualities which entitle her to be regarded as an ideal of womanhood ; not only was she handsome, clever and good-hearted, but in every respect a type of a true heroine. She has formed a favourite subject for the national poets, and is always held up as an example for mothers and daughters.

Ilona Zrinyi came from a very old stock. She was the daughter of Peter Zrinyi, the great poet and soldier, who took part in the revolutionary plot organised by the Palatine Wesselényi, already referred to, and a niece of Miklós Zrinyi, the hero of Szigetvár, the very name of which sends a thrill of patriotism through the heart of every true Hungarian, for here, in 1566, the great hero Miklós Zrinyi held out heroically with a small body of 2,500 men against a mighty force of 90,000 of Suleiman's men. Fighting desperately till his number was reduced to 300 men, and seeing that there was no chance of further resistance, he and his comrades arrayed themselves in holiday attire, and with drawn swords opened the gates and then blew up the fort, preferring to die in this way rather than surrender.

Ilona married, firstly, Ferencz Rákóczy I., by whom she became mother of Ferencz Rákóczy II. After her husband's death she married Emeric Thököli, who subsequently, aided by the Sultan, led a revolt against the King of Hungary, in which she herself took a prominent part.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

When the Sultan concluded peace with the Emperor of Germany he had to renounce his *protégé*, who had to fight his own wars ; nay, it even went so far as this, that at one time Thököli was captured by the Pasha of Nagy Várad, and would have been delivered up to the Emperor had it not been for the intervention of his wife, who wrote a most reproachful letter to the Grand Vizier. But Ilona Zrinyi could not only write letters, she could fight better still ; for whilst her husband had to take refuge in Servia she defended the fort of Munkács for over three years against the German troops, who on various occasions gave up the bombardment. Finally, the fort was taken by treachery. Ilona and her children were taken prisoners to Vienna, and it was only in the year 1690, as we have stated, that she and her children gained their liberty, and upon the ultimate defeat of her husband emigrated with him to Turkey, where they found their final resting-place.

From Munkács we visit the adjoining counties of Bereg and Ugocsa and Máramaros, and here again every inch of the ground is associated with the House of Rhédey, who, together with the Lónyays—the ancestors of Count Elemer Lónyay—have for centuries shared between them the honour of being at the head of these historic counties. Situated as their counties do on the threshold between Hungary and Poland on the one hand, and Roumania and Transylvania on the other, sufficient scope was provided to the illustrious scions of these Houses, to share their glory and to prove their valour on the field of battle.



UNGVÁR



HARVESTING



THE CASTLE OF MUNKÁCS

A RHÉDEY STRONGHOLD

Our road now leads us across a portion of the Lowlands studded with extensive orchards and vineyards, but at Beregszász, the capital of the county of Bereg, the road suddenly turns towards the Carpathian Mountains, and here we stand before the famous fort of Huszt, where the ancestors of Her Majesty, the Rhédeys, rendered themselves immortal and became its masters. Thence proceeding along romantic mountain scenery and pastoral valleys where the Tisza is struggling at the beginning of her long and glorious career, we finally reach Máramaros-Sziget, the capital of the county of Máramaros.

MÁRAMAROS-SZIGET

This is a very picturesque old town, situated on an island formed by the Rivers Tisza and Iza, and surrounded by the snow-crowned Alps, which bears favourable comparison with the Tátra. There are several castles belonging to the Bethlens, Teleki, and other well-known families.

The people of Máramaros Sziget and the country consist principally of Russian Slavs, Wallachians, Germans, and Hungarians, and this mixture of peoples in their respective national costumes proves a most interesting sight to the stranger. The Russians, who next to the Wallachians form the larger portion of the population, emigrated here in the time of King Louis the Great of Hungary. This country, which, by its natural position, surrounded as it is by the high Alps, forms the frontier between Transylvania and Poland, was, like Transylvania, in-

THE HOUSE OF TECK

habited in the time of the Hungarian conquest by Daco-Romans, who were left in full liberty by the Hungarians, and were allowed to have their own Waiwode, and a ruling Count with dynastic rights. The surrounding snow-clad mountains are covered with ancient forests of great extent, and teeming with big game and wild animals of all sorts, including bears and boars. The celebrated salt-mine of Szlatina is situated within half-an-hour of Sziget, in the most picturesque part of the Alps and along the Tisza river. This mine produces a tremendous quantity of salt and is a State monopoly. Like the mine in the Salzkammergut, its interior offers a wonderful sight which can be explored by visitors. It is also not far from Sziget that Hungary's greatest and mightiest river—the Tisza (Theiss)—springs, forming in its birth a magnificent waterfall. There is a story told about the origin of the Tisza, which runs as follows :—

THE TISZA AND IZA LEGENDS

Many and many a generation ago, when the Máramaros still belonged to Attila, there were two forts in the Alps. In one lived Tisza, a handsome young warrior, and in the other Iza, a pretty young widow. Tisza was in love with the daughter of a shepherd, whom he wished to espouse, but Iza, who was enamoured of him, did everything to prevent the marriage, and managed to imprison the girl in underground cells. Tisza, who did not know her whereabouts, became quite desolate, and finally, giving her up as lost, he listened to the allurements of Iza,

LEGENDS OF THE TISZA

whom he married. But very soon afterwards, when he went to the battle-field, she became unfaithful and ran away from him. On his return home he was met by the Fairy King of the Alps, who apprised him of the fact, and told him the shepherdess maiden yet lived. He received the news with mingled joy and sorrow and was turned into a stone. From this springs the River Tisza. The Fairy King punished Iza in the same manner, and the spot where she is supposed to have been turned into stone is the birth-place of the Iza. Both rivers embrace each other at Sziget.

The Máramaros boast of heroic deeds having been enacted upon its soil, for in 1717 a Tartar horde invaded the country, and at Borsa they were driven back by men and women into a narrow mountain pass, from whence they could not escape. Thousands and thousands were slaughtered, whose bodies now form small hills, while 20,000 were thrown into the River Víz-só, and the water was so tainted that it could not be used for a year. The people of Borsa have still many Tartar relics left, amongst others the sword and saddle of the slaughtered Khan.

Having reached the extreme limit of north-east Hungary, we once more renew our acquaintance with the plains, and, taking a slight *détour*, make our way back through the county of Szatmár, with the capital of which many historic incidents are associated, and the Rhédeys, as its earliest feudal lords, had a great share in its history. In our genealogical sketch of the family it will be seen that the first member of the house of Aba, who is known to have assumed the

THE HOUSE OF TECK

name of Rhédey, was lord-lieutenant of the county of Szatmár at the end of the twelfth century. Szatmár, the capital of the country, is a beautiful city, and is famed for the treaty which was signed here between the Emperor and the former adherents of Rákóczy, whereby that great hero became an exile. The Károlyi family own great possessions in this county, and the town of Nagy Károly was named after them.

From here we take a northerly direction through the country of Szabolcs, a land of paradise, where the early ancestors of Her Majesty saw for the first time the beautiful Hungarian plains, the memory of which they preserved in their legends, and claimed as an inheritance from the Huns.

The county of Szabolcs was once the ancient seat of the now extinct family of the Báthorys, and is still the home of the great Forgách and Vay families. The latter have been associated with Her Majesty's ancestors for centuries by constant intermarriages. The family, who can trace their descent from the ninth century, have since then given many eminent men to the country, and in Transylvania they were intimately associated with the Rhédey, Bethlen and Rákóczy régime. One of the members, Count Peter Vay, is well known in England. He is one of the most gifted men in Hungary, and has had a very interesting career. He was originally destined for a diplomatic career, and was accredited to the different Courts, where he became most popular. He, however, had a great liking for the Church, and in due course

COUNT PETER DE VAY

took holy orders, and was nominated Pronotary Apostolic by the Papal Court, and formed a part of the Papal mission at Queen Victoria's Jubilee celebration. He then obtained leave to visit Asia, having been one of the first to travel on the Manchurian railway, and penetrated to the interior of Manchuria and Korea with a view to improve the condition of the people. All his travels were keenly followed by the Czar of Russia, who furnished him with special introductions. Upon his return from these countries he gave a most interesting lecture on the peoples of the countries he had visited, before the Royal Society of London, and his work on the same subject, published in English, is highly prized. He also visited America in order to preach among the Hungarian emigrants and to encourage them to preserve a patriotic spirit. More recently Count Vay de Vay has been nominated to the high post of Lord Abbot of one of the great monasteries. He is a cousin to Count Elemér de Lónyay, husband of Princess Stephanie, who, like him, has inherited the patriotic spirit and noble qualities of their ancestors.

Winding our way in the direction of Budapest, before reaching the capital we visit the county of Heves, the veritable land of the Rhédeys, where their ancestors established their fame on the field of battle, and became known for all time in the history of Hungary.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

CHAPTER XX

THE CRADLE HOME OF THE RHEDEYS, HEVES

Immediately we enter this beautiful county we are reminded at every step of the family of Rhédey.

The history of the county itself and its relations to the Rhédey family is very interesting. After the conquest of Hungary by Árpád, the entire county was given to the family of Duke Ede, and a certain Pata, the grandson of Ede, who was the grandfather of Samuel Aba, laid the foundation to the many towns and villages in the county. It was at that time that were built the villages of Réde, Báthor, Saar, and Lelesz, which, together with the vast territory around it, formed the entire property of the Rhédeys, Báthorys, and other families named.

Samuel Aba founded here, at the foot of the Mátra Mountains, the once famous Abbey of Saar referred to in the earlier part of the work, and after his tragic death, was buried here. During the twelfth century a number of other monasteries belonging to the Cistercian Order were built on the lands of the Rhédeys; and in the thirteenth century, in another portion of their estates, where once the pagans used to worship, a Carthusian monastery was raised. During the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the country was cruelly exposed to the inroads of roving Tartars, and other hordes who devastated the



THE PARISH CHURCH OF KÍS RÉDE

(THE ANCIENT HOME OF THE RHÉDEYS)

The Church has been built on the Site of the Former Residence, which had been destroyed by the Turks

THE VILLAGE OF RÉDE

country, and many of its towns and villages were destroyed and had to be rebuilt. This went on till the sixteenth century, when a more formidable enemy made its appearance in Hungary in the person of the Turks.

From this moment the Rhédeys did not rest their swords for a single day, and every inch of the soil in the county of Heves and in the adjoining Nógrád has a story to tell of their heroism.

In an earlier part of this work has been described how Ferencz I. and the other members of the family fought at Eger and with what valour Ferencz II. held the fort of Fülek. In the heroic defence of Eger by Dobó, which made him famous for all time, the Rhédeys had a great share, and greater still was their fame to be when the family in the sixteenth century left their cradle home in Hungary for Transylvania.

As time went on the vast family property in the county of Heves, which principally originally belonged to the Rhédey family, became, by grant or marriage, divided amongst the families of Thököli, Losonczy, Rákóczy, Koháry, Károlyi, Nyári, Perényi, Homonna, and Orczy (the ancestors of the brilliant authoress, Baroness d'Orczy), all of whom played a very leading part in the history of the country, but none of them have left a greater name in the history of the county of Heves than the Rhédeys.

Of the two sister villages of Réde, whence the family sprang, only Nagy Réde is still in existence, but Kis Réde, which for centuries was the seat of the family whilst still in Hungary, has been entirely

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destroyed by the many wars, and there is no vestige or sign of its former importance. The site of the once ancient family home of the Rhédeys is now a *puszta*, or farm, on the ground of which stands the little church, a view of which is published here. But though the Rhédeys have for more than four centuries left their native land, their memory is still sacredly guarded. Every mountain and valley in the district bears the name of the family. As illustrating how revered is their memory, it will be interesting to note that the writer has it on the authority of the notary of Nagy Réde that a certain village blacksmith in the place, whose remote ancestors were in the employ of the Rhédey family, shows with pride some relics given by the Rhédeys to his ancestors, which they would not part with at any price, in spite of their many vicissitudes. The country all round here is picturesque in the extreme, and the soil is very fertile. It has furnished the theme to Baroness d'Orczy's well-known novel, "A Son of the Soil."

EGER

There are many interesting places in the county of Heves and the adjoining county of Nógrád, and numerous are its rugged mountains and vine-clad hills, down which numberless streams and rivers hasten. But in this volume reference can only be made to Eger, famous for its beautiful women and its red wine, but more famous still for its heroic defence by Dobó and the Rhédeys, to which reference has already been made. So fierce and so deter-



EGER



RUINS OF THE CASTLE OF FÜLEK
WHICH THE RHÉDEYS SO HEROICALLY DEFENDED AGAINST THE TURKS

THE HEROINES OF EGER

mined was the defence of the little garrison, faced by an overwhelming enemy, the Turks, that the women of Eger had to come to the rescue of the defenders, and of this not only the people of Eger, but the whole of Hungary is justly proud.

Eger is an important centre, and is the seat of an archbishopric, and its imposing palace is one of the sights of the town.

From here we leave the hilly districts, and cutting through the vast plains near Hatvan, and passing at Gödöllő the beautiful country residence of the Emperor-King, which once was such a favourite home of the late Empress Elisabeth, we reach Budapest, the capital of Hungary, only to proceed to Transylvania, with which the Rhédey family have been so closely associated ever since they left their original home in Heves.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

CHAPTER XXI

THE HEART OF HUNGARY

The direct route to Transylvania from Budapest is *viâ* Nagy Várad, but we shall take a short *détour* so as to enable us to see Debreczen, the capital of the great Hungarian plains, where one will gain a true insight into Hungarian national life and become acquainted with the characteristic features of the vast Hungarian lowlands which have been immortalised by that greatest of Hungarian lyric writers, Alexander Petőfi.

Debreczen, generally styled the Calvinist Rome, is one of the largest cities situated in the plains, and is often called the Peasant Capital, it being a typical Hungarian town. It has been gradually formed from several villages which have been extended from time to time. There is a handsome Calvinist church, built in the Renaissance style, which is the largest one of its kind in the country.

Unlike other towns in Hungary, the people of Debreczen belong entirely to the middle class, and, according to their idea, to be a citizen of Debreczen is as good as being a magnate of any other part. It is no wonder, therefore, that it is the home of the Liberals.

In 1849, when the National Hungarian Assembly was menaced by the approach of the Austrian troops, the Diet was adjourned at Debreczen, and met in

DEBRECZEN

the Calvinist chapel belonging to the college. It was there, on the memorable day of the 14th April, that Louis Kossuth made the proclamation that, owing to the ill-treatment of Hungary, the House of Habsburg had lost all rights and claim to the crown of St. Stephen, and proclaimed Hungary as an independent State, and the entire Assembly then adjourned to the great Calvinist church to solemnise the event. Debreczen has given birth to the great poet, Csokonai, whose splendid statue adorns one of the principal thoroughfares.

Before the railways had connected the Alföld with the capital and other parts of Hungary, Debreczen was considered the centre of the country, but now that the district is within a few hours' reach of Budapest, and only about one or two hours from Nagy Váradi, the town has lost much of its prestige, but still it offers the most interesting sight to a stranger, for nowhere in Hungary can one see such a gathering of the variety of peasant farmers, cowboys, herdsmen, and pedlars as is to be seen here on such occasions, and their variety of costumes and quaint ways all go to make up a picture which once seen will never be forgotten.

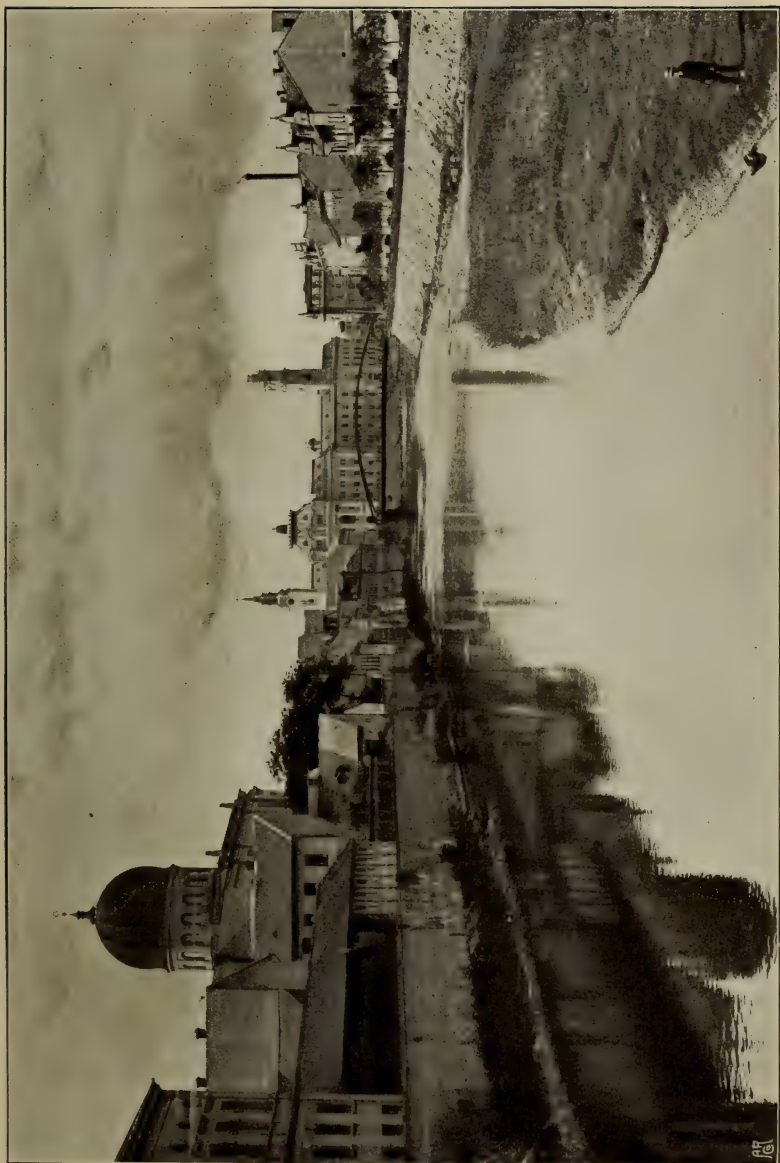
THE FAIR OF DEBRECZEN

As you stroll along its picturesque streets and boulevards, adorned by rows of acacia-trees, you are struck by the interesting crowd of townspeople, interspersed by the *csikós* (cowboys) or *gulyás* (herdsmen) from the adjoining *puszta*, all dressed

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in the costly and beautiful national costumes, and, if you have occasion to stay a day or two in the place, you may obtain a better insight into Hungarian national life than is to be gained by a stay of months in Budapest. Here everything is simply and entirely Hungarian, as indeed one may expect, considering that at this place we are in the heart of the great Hungarian Alföld (the Lowlands).

This town has always been celebrated for its wonderful fairs, and in olden days the fairs at Debreczen could not even be outrivalled by those at Nijni Novgorod. Though since the introduction of railways they have lost a great deal of their significance, yet the town remains one of the largest grain markets in Europe, and the enormous amount of Hungarian cattle brought there for sale on market days is not to be equalled in any other place. It is quite a sight to be here at fair-time, and to witness the busy life of the people. Here we see cartloads containing large displays of the finest sheepskins (*bunda*) and national uniforms, evidently intended for sale amongst the *csikós* (cowboys) and peasants. There, furiously driving along, comes the *kupecz* (peasant merchant) carrying perhaps one or two thousand pounds in his pocket! Here carts laden with various kinds of poultry come towards us; the cackling and crowing and cracking make a confused babel of sounds. There a large flock of cows pass by, their fine white horns glittering in the sun, their lowing is interrupted by the baa of herds of sheep just arriving. Teams of horses and colts, driven and ridden by numbers of *csikós*, confront us at frequent



NAGY VARAD

TYPICAL HUNGARIAN SCENE

intervals. The cracking of their whips echoes in the air; they all wend their way towards the plains just outside the town, where enormous tents and huts are being erected for the fair to be commenced the next day—the fair day at Debreczen. Here, on these plains, which only yesterday were utterly barren, thousands and thousands of tents and huts have sprung up, where a large quantity of peasant costumes and all kinds of dress and material for dress are exhibited, and where boots, hats, ornaments, agricultural implements, and every imaginable article are offered for sale in great variety, while rows upon rows of tents give the people refreshment and drinks of every description. One must have been an eye-witness of the scene in order to be able to picture the enormous amount of people who flock to the fair. What a novel and picturesque sight it is! One sees, shoulder to shoulder in the crowd, the peasant arrayed in the new clothes he has just purchased walking along with his old garments hanging on his back; the young dandy with two or three hats piled on top of the other on his head; the *csikós*, the *kondás*, and the whole of the peasant aristocracy from the adjoining villages. Here Bandibácsi (Uncle Bandi*) comes gaily along. He carries in his hand a group of clanking chains for his oxen. No wonder he is merry, for he has plenty of money in his pocket, having just sold two couples of calves. There the young lover walks arm in arm with his

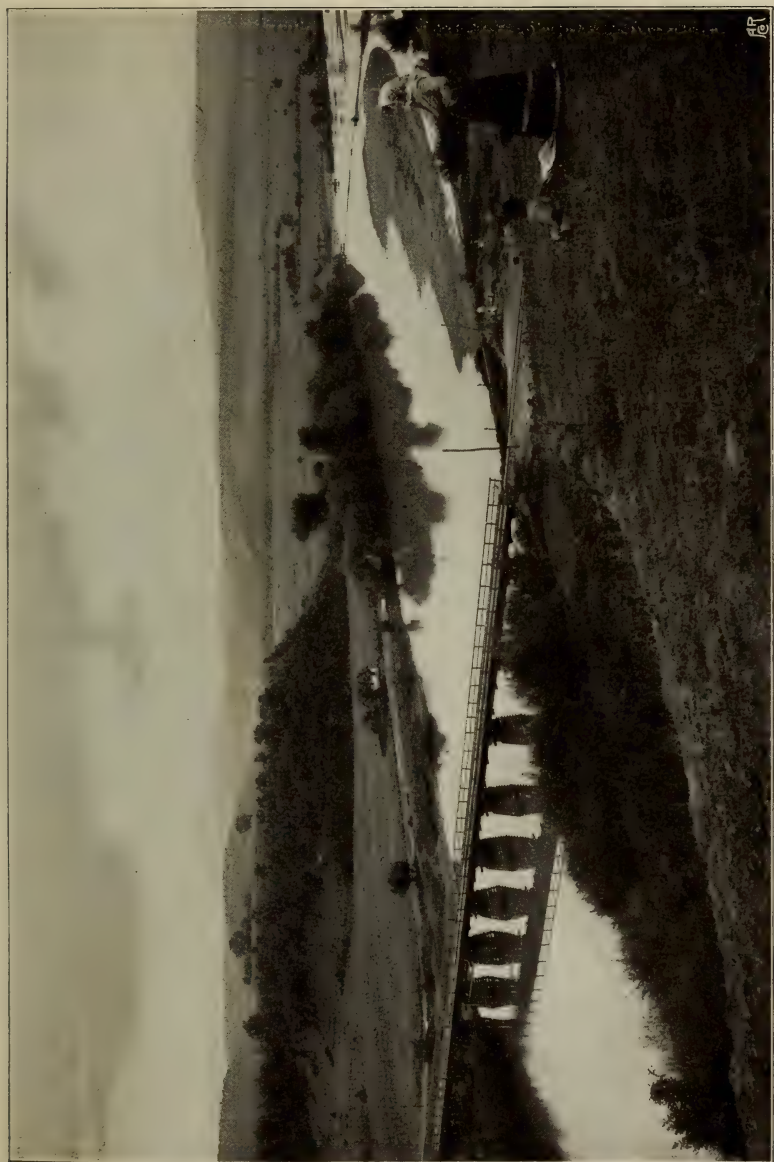
* In the Hungarian language the term *bácsi*, “uncle,” is applied in addressing or speaking of any man who is older than yourself.

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fiancée ; there is a radiant look upon her face, for he has just bought her a new silk handkerchief and *pántliká* (a cluster of ribbons) for her hair. He, too, is evidently happy. He struts along, clinking his spurs, and carrying in his hand the handkerchiefs she has embroidered for him. In this noisy crowd we see the *Zsandár* (gendarmes) in their picturesque uniforms, groups of gipsies and people of all sorts and conditions. In the midst of all the hubbub, we hear the cries of the street vendors who sell handkerchiefs, imitation jewellery, ribbons and trifling articles of every description. Seated on the ground, the women of Szeged sell the *paprika* (red pepper) for which they are famous.

Next we see *Sári Asszony* (Mrs. Sarah) busy handing her fine pork sausages, which she cooks over her fire. The baker boy next to her, who is blowing his horn all the time, is also busy doing a roaring trade, and vending a quantity of *perecz* (round cakes made from eggs in the form of rings which he carried on a stick). Be careful as you push your way along, lest you fall over some of the busy women who are cooking at your feet ! But yet another aspect of life at the fair remains to be seen. This is as you walk along between the two rows of *tebernas* (huts which serve as inns), where you see crowds of peasants all clustered and seated together. They are drinking the *áldomás* (the so-called blessed drink), for according to them no bargain is concluded without a drink to ratify it. All round here are the gipsies playing frantically away on their fiddles.

As you quit the place with the noise ringing in



SCENE ON THE RIVER KÖRÖS, HUNGARY

A HUNGARIAN HORSE FARM

your ears, you come upon a strange contrast of scene, for you are suddenly face to face with the great Puszta (or plain) of Hortobágy.

THE PUSZTA OF HORTOBÁGY

But the most interesting sight in the vicinity of Debreczen is the great *Hortobágy Puszta*, the largest of the kind in Hungary, which occupies an area of fifty-two thousand Hungarian acres, the greater portion of which has never yet been ploughed. The waste territory was formerly a marshy, reedy swamp, but, after the irrigation of the Tisza, it became all pastoral land, where thousands of cattle and sheep are now tended, and where the celebrated studs of fiery Hungarian colts are reared. These colts run about wild up to their second or third year in the full delight of liberty, and it requires skill only equalled by that of the Mexican cowboy, to capture them and tame them when required for training purposes.

One can drive about for hours and hours in this fabulously large estate without meeting anything or anybody but the enormous herds of cattle, sheep and horses, tended by hundreds of men, and the only objects to attract the eye, besides this enchanting picture, are the quaint drawing wells standing up against the horizon.

In fine weather these shepherds and cowboys wander about from place to place, sleeping in the open air, their bed being the *bunda*, a long sheepskin coat. Spread all over the *puszta* you will find little

THE HOUSE OF TECK

straw-built huts, where they and their flocks and herds take refuge in rainy and stormy weather, and where they all congregate on special fête days. These huts are called *karám*.

The men who tend the hordes of cattle are thus designated :—the cowboy, *Csikós* : the shepherd, or *Juhász* : the herdsman, or *Gulyás* : and the swineherd, or *Kondás*. Each of them may be easily recognised by his distinctive attire.

The *csikós* is not a man who is simply hired to attend upon the horses. No, something more is required of him. He has hereditary gifts, for he is the son and grandson of a race of *csikós*s, who have reared horses for generations, and can boast of knowing the pedigree of almost every horse on the plains. At a tender age the young *csikós* is seen in his native village, or *puszta*, galloping on horseback and performing feats which would outrival any circus rider. When he attains the age of twelve he joins his father in the plains, where he finds plenty of leisure to form more intimate acquaintance with his charges. And those who have occasion to be eye-witnesses of the lassoing of these animals will not wonder at the *csikós* being immortalised by the greatest Hungarian writers. Imagine thousands of colts in their state of utter wildness being driven into rings, and, in their fury and excitement, rearing, and kicking, and prancing to such an extent that few indeed would dare to approach them ; and then picture the *csikós*, with quiet dexterity, throwing round them their lassoes, springing on to their backs, and riding—or seeming, indeed, to fly—away with



MONUMENTAL EFFIGY OF FERENCZ RHÉDEY II., †1621
(IN HIS ARMOUR), AS A POLISH KNIGHT
IN THE RHÉDEY MAUSOLEUM OF NAGY VÁRAD

THE CSIKÓS

them across the plains ! After an hour the animals may be almost said to be tamed. At any rate, they are subdued, and it is possible to ride them.

The attire of the *csikós* is simple, but picturesque. His costume consists of a short hussar jacket carelessly thrown over his shoulders, sometimes covered by the long sheepskin coat called the *bunda*, wide linen drawers (*gatya*) neatly pleated into a band at the waist, and a red waistcoat plentifully ornamented with buttons. His white shirt has wide hanging sleeves. On his head he wears a smart round felt hat with a feather. To complete everything, come top-boots with spurs. As he springs on to his bare-backed horse, giving the final touch to his fierce moustache, and slashing his whip with a crack which re-echoes across the plains, he can sing with Petőfi—

On the Puszta I was born,
On the Puszta I dwell !
I have no roof to my head !
But I have a horse who can scale hurdles
And I am a Csikós of the Alföld plains.
Saddleless do I sit my steed,
And my way leads me hither and thither ;
I do not require any reins,
For I am a Csikós of the Alföld plains.

NAGY VÁRAD

This town has a special interest for us, as here and in the county of Bihar, of which Nagy Várád is the capital, many members of the Rhédey family

THE HOUSE OF TECK

resided, and had immense estates and family seats, and by the kind courtesy of Mr. Charles Rimler, the Burgomaster of Nagy Várád, and Mr. Louis Lakos (keeper of the archives of the county), we are enabled to give a precise account of those members of the Rhédey family specially associated with the town or who resided in the county. The illustrious Ferencz (Francis) II. was Military Governor of the district, and had his residence at Nagy Várád. Francis Rhédey III., Prince of Transylvania, after his abdication retired to his estates at Bihar. But it was Count Lajos II. of Rhédey who, as we have already stated, specially identified himself with the town and county during the many years he held the post of Lord-Lieutenant and Governor, when he was greatly revered.

Very touching indeed was the letter wherein he took leave of the town and the response of the municipality thereto, with copies of which the present writer has been favoured from the archives of the county.

That the town of Nagy Várád is grateful to his memory is shown by the fact that, when the new town hall was opened in 1904, Burgomaster Rimler specially referred to the memory of Count Lajos Rhédey and the other members of the family, including Count Ádam Rhédey, President of the Royal Curia of Transylvania, who was one of the most generous supporters of Nagy Várád, and after the great conflagration gave enormous sums for the sufferers and the rebuilding of the town.

Many other members of the Rhédey family



COUNT LAJOS RHÉDEY, † 1831

FROM THE FAMILY MAUSOLEUM AT NAGY VÁRAD

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NAGY VÁRAD

resided either at Nagy Várád or in its vicinity, as also many of those who married into other families, these including Mme Johanna de Bárdossy (*née* Countess Rhédey) and Mme Béla de Fráter (*née* Countess Rhédey), the mother of the eminent deputy and writer, M. Loránt Fráter. The sisters, Baroness de Wesselényi and Baroness de Horváth, often spend their time on their estates in Bihar at their beautiful castle of Zsák.

Nagy Várád is also the seat of the great family of Kornis. This family, to whom reference has already been made, became by constant marriages related to the House of Rhédey ; indeed, they claim to have a similar descent. Their ancestor was a certain French Marquis named William Kornis, who settled in Hungary in the reign of King Samuel Aba, and after the death of that monarch he is supposed to have married his widow, Queen Charlotte. One of the members of the family was a lady-in-waiting and constant companion and friend of the late Empress-Queen Elizabeth, and accompanied her on her many visits to England.

Nagy Várád holds the same position in Central Hungary that does Kassa in the northern portion of the country. It lies on the high road to Eastern Europe, and is close to Transylvania. It is one of the oldest towns in Hungary and boasts of a bishopric founded by St. Stephen and a church built by St. Ladislaus, where this monarch as well as Stephen II. was buried.

The Turks in 1588 tried to capture the town, but did not succeed till 1660. During the independence

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of Transylvania the town and district were incorporated with that Principality. It was, however, garrisoned by the Turks, its Pasha, with that of Temesvár, holding the highest rank in the land after that of Buda. Several important incidents in the history of the country occurred at Nagy Várád; thus the treaty between Ferdinand I. of Austria—the first King of Hungary—and his rival, King John Szapolyai, in which the independence of Transylvania was proclaimed and the partition of Hungary between the two monarchs, was declared and signed here at Nagy Várád.

It is one of the most picturesque towns in Hungary, though it has many factories and a prosperous trade, it being generally named the “Birmingham of Hungary.” There are many imposing public buildings and bishoprics for the three dominating religions, Protestant, Roman Catholic and Russian Orthodox Church, and Catholic and Greek Church. It has a Law Academy and several High Colleges. It is appreciated for the surrounding districts, which import here their grain and wines that are grown abundantly in the district. The inhabitants of the town and district are principally Hungarians, Wallachians and Germans, but the neighbourhood in the direction of Transylvania is entirely peopled by Wallachians.

Here we are in close proximity to Transylvania.



COUNTESS LAJOS RHÉDEY

Reproduced from an old Painting in the Family Mausoleum at Nagy Váradi

CHAPTER XXII

TRANSYLVANIA—THE PEARL OF THE HUNGARIAN CROWN

Amongst the precious jewels of nature which stud the enchanting soil of the Hungarian Crownlands, the most precious of all is Transylvania, appropriately termed “The Pearl of the Hungarian Crown.”

Nature has been very kind in lavishing all its beauties on this earthly paradise, the possession of which was so coveted by other nations and people right from the darkest ages of history; Dacians, Goths, Huns, Greeks, Romans, Magyars, and Turks, all conquered it in turn, and left traces behind of their former might and grandeur.

The gigantic height of the snow-clad Alps, upon which the picturesque ancient castles, ruins, and villages are scattered in reckless fashion, its precipitous mountain passes, its deep gorges and smiling valleys, and golden-coloured streams and waterfalls which break forth into auriferous mountains, its mediæval monuments and picturesque people, all give it an *ensemble* such as is seldom to be seen anywhere in other countries. When we recall the fact that Transylvania has been the bastion against the Turkish invasion, not only for Hungary, but for the whole of the Western civilisation, that it has been the cradle of religious freedom and

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liberty, and that the glory of the country has been established by the paternal ancestors of Her Majesty the Queen, a short account of the country may prove of special interest.

TRANSYLVANIA

The Transylvania of to-day, which is situated on the extreme east of the mother country, Hungary, is somewhat larger than Scotland, but in its golden period, when the country, during the rule of the princes, included several counties now belonging to Hungary, and Wallachia was for a time under its sway, the Principality was nearly the size of England. The lofty and rugged mountains which surround it in an irregular circle give it the appearance of a natural fortress made unapproachable by the narrow precipitous and winding passes leading to the ancient Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia (the Roumania of to-day). The large forests, the vast ravines, the lovely valleys, and the mountain chains which intercept the interior render the country one of the most romantically beautiful in Europe.

Nature has also liberally endowed it with great resources in its vast mineral wealth, and the gold of its mountains and rivers have, so to speak, passed into a proverb, whilst its mines of silver, copper, iron, and salt are the largest to be found in the Hungarian kingdom.

From the point of antiquity, Transylvania can boast of many interesting relics of the Dacian and Roman periods as well as of the Middle Ages, when the country played so important a part in the world's



THE BIHAR MOUNTAINS, HUNGARY

BUDAVÁR—ATTILA'S PALACE

history, and these relics are scattered about all over the country, in towns and villages. One is reminded here of the days when the Turks were all-powerful, and became a menace to Christianity.

High up in the mountains memories of the remote past are preserved, for on the very loftiest peaks, where once upon a time the Huns raised their altars and worshipped their God Yesten—the *débris* of Budavár, the palace of the mighty Attila, may still be seen, and under its ruins lies buried Beka, the favourite wife of the Emperor of the Huns—the “Scourge of God.”

But nature, too, has left traces of her wonderful creations, and whilst her volcanic powers have thrown up huge boulders, under which amethysts and other precious stones lie scattered, it has pierced the heart of the mountains, and its fancy has interspersed them with fairy-like glens and ravines, the like of which are not to be seen elsewhere throughout the world.

Whilst the mountain passes speak to us of the wonders produced by the magic wand of the saintly king, St. Ladislaus, of the House of Árpád, so near of kin to King Samuel Aba, the ancestor of Her Majesty the Queen, down yonder in the plains of Kenyérmező, one is reminded of the heroic valour of Hunyady and Kinizsi. Every inch of the ground has a story to reveal of the marvellous exploits of the Princes of Transylvania, amongst whom so many of Her Majesty's ancestors are to be found.

Transylvania is rightly termed the “Land of Sport,” for in its huge forests many large animals,

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such as bears, wolves, wild boars, chamois, and a variety of game swarm in large quantities and fall an easy prey to the sportsman's gun.

Apart from its wonderful Alpine vegetation, the interior of the country is studded with enormous orchards, and fruits of all and every variety grow in abundance.

The people of Transylvania consist of three nationalities and comprise, besides Magyars, the ruling race, the Wallachs, the descendants of Daco-Roumanians, the Szeklers or Székely, a people much alike in appearance to the Hungarians, speaking the same language, but who, according to tradition, originally inhabited Transylvania at the time of the Magyar conquest and claim to be the descendants of the Huns, some of whom after their defeat took refuge in the mountains of Transylvania, whilst others, under the leadership of Csaba, son of Attila, the traditional ancestor of the House of Aba, returned to Central Asia.

Finally, we have the Saxons, a German people from the Rhine, who in the twelfth century were invited to settle there and protect the country against the hordes of Tartars, Mongols, and other barbarians who were constantly invading the country.

These settlers received special privileges for the maintenance of their national customs and language, to which they have adhered to the present day, their dialect, spoken in Germany centuries ago, being now extinct.

The various nationalities inhabit special districts



KOLOZSVÁR (CAPITAL OF TRANSYLVANIA)

VARIOUS NATIONALITIES

of their own. The characteristic and charming attire of the Székelys—a people who pride themselves on being the descendants of the Huns—have not altered in the slightest degree for centuries past, nor have the Saxon settlers in Transylvania deviated from their Teutonic ways of the mediæval ages, either in dress or manner or speech, whilst the Wallachians, in their quaint and rustic costumes, form the greatest contrast of all, and are picturesque in the extreme. The villages and hamlets on the heights of the mountains or in the depths of the valleys are spread about in reckless fashion, their primitive huts and cottages offering favourite themes for the pencil and brush of the artist.

The women of Transylvania have been famed from time immemorial for their great beauty and horsemanship. It should also be remembered that the fiery Transylvanian horse is unequalled for its elegant form, its speed and endurance.

DACIA

The history of Transylvania from the time of its conquest by the Magyars and during the eventful centuries which followed, is outlined in our sketch relating to the history of Hungary, and is further dealt with in describing the glorious reign of its princes, who form the subject of our narrative.

But it might not be out of place to refer to the country when it became famous as Dacia, the subjugation of which is immortalised on the Trajan Column at Rome.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

We first hear of the Dacians, the ancient inhabitants of Transylvania, who gave their name to the country, Dacia, in the time of Alexander the Great, when under their King Sarmis they refused to acknowledge his supremacy, and their country was consequently invaded and ravaged by his troops. This Sarmis is said to have been the founder of a town called Sarmisegethusa, situated on a site near that of the present Torda, where on many different occasions quantities of gold coins have been found bearing on one side his effigy and on the reverse the fortified gate of the town.

On the division of Alexander's conquests amongst his generals, Thrace, together with the land on either side of the Danube, fell to the share of Lysimachus. The new king, however, found his subjects disinclined to accept his rule, and was obliged to march against them at the head of a large force. Dromicoietes, the successor of Sarmis, was prepared for the attack, and succeeded not only in resisting the Grecian army, but in capturing its chief and appropriating the rich plunder of his camp.

It is most probable that the enormous quantity of coins found in this neighbourhood in the middle of the sixteenth century bearing the effigy of Lysimachus and the name of Cossea, a town in Thrace, where they were evidently struck, were the remnants of the great plunder of Dromicoetes from his Greek adversaries.

From that period up to the reign of the Emperor Augustus, nearly two hundred and fifty years, nothing is recorded in any way of Dacia; during the

1.



2.



3.



(1) SITE OF THE FORMER RESIDENCE OF THE
RHÉDEY FAMILY, A PORTION OF WHICH HAS
BEEN CONVERTED INTO A HOTEL

(2) WESSELÉNYI STREET

(3) THE BÁNFFY PALACE, KOLOZSVÁR

TRAJAN'S CONQUEST

Emperor's rule, their King, Cotyso by name, more than once invaded Italy and ravaged the country, by which he was looked upon in the light of a dangerous enemy. These incursions were repeated later ; finally, during the reign of Domitian, the Dacians obtained many victories, so that the Roman Empire of the time was compelled to come to terms with them by the payment of a yearly tribute to their King Decebalus. As soon, however, as the Emperor Trajan ascended the throne he made up his mind to submit to this indignity no longer, and organised an expedition, headed by himself, against Dacia. In this expedition the Emperor passed through Pannonia (the present Hungary), crossing the River Tisza, followed the course of the River Maros, and reached Transylvania by this comparatively easy way of access. The first great battle between his troops and the Dacian King Decebalus took place at Torda, and proved disastrous to the Dacians, Decebalus being compelled to take refuge in his capital, Sarmisegethusa, and to submit to humiliating conditions.

The Dacians having later on broken this treaty, the Emperor decided upon another expedition, and this time decided that he would make Dacia a Roman province. In this expedition he crossed the Danube below the Iron Gates, where he afterwards built his famous bridge. Tradition holds that the Romans gave it the name of the Iron Gate, as they found the pass so narrow that they actually put a huge iron gate across it to prevent being followed and attacked in the rear.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

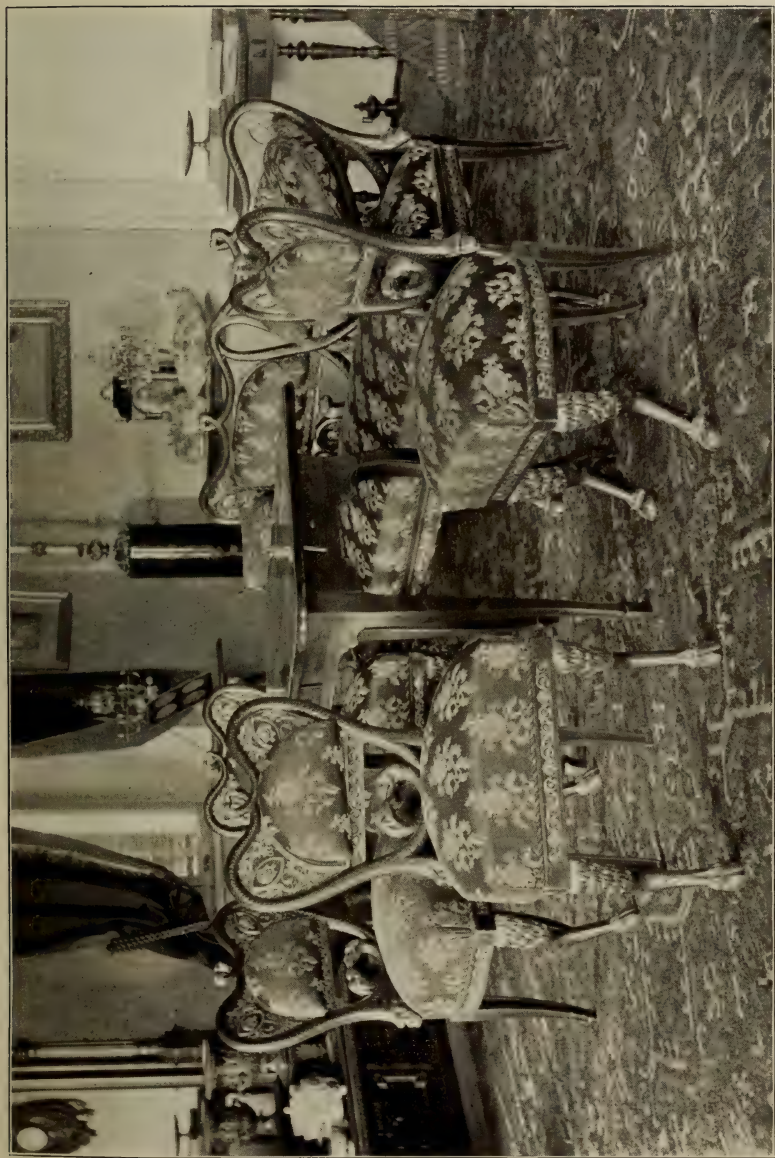
This time, however, the Dacians, feeling that they were unable to offer any resistance, rather than surrender their capital, set fire to it, and fled to the mountains. King Decebalus, being unable to escape from his pursuers, stabbed himself to death sooner than become subjugate to Rome.

As soon as Trajan had completed the conquest of the country, he reorganised and divided it in the following manner. The present Transylvania became Dacia Mediterranea ; Wallachia and Moldavia, Dacia Transalpina ; and the Bánát, Dacia Ripensis. He constructed the great bridge over the Danube, and made a road in the rocks along its banks.

He built the imperial city of Ulpia Trajana, which he destined as a seat for the Government beyond the Danube, Torda, and several other places, and, connecting them by roads (remains of which still exist), he employed them as the means of perpetuating the power of Rome in the newly-acquired territory. On the ruins of Sarmisegethusa was the residence of Decebalus.

The Romans seem to have remained masters of Dacia till the time of Aurelian, when they finally retired across the Danube.

Although the duration of the Roman Empire in this country was much shorter than in many others of Europe—about one hundred and seventy years only—yet in none of the countries did the Romans leave such striking mementoes of their dominion, especially in the language. The Wallach of the present day calls himself “ Rumunyi,” and retains a traditional pride in his ancestry. The language now



DRAWING-ROOM CHAIRS IN THE RHÉDEY HOUSE, KOLOZSVÁR
FORMERLY USED BY COUNTESS CLAUDIA RHÉDEY

BÁNFFY HUNYAD

spoken by all the people of this nation is soft, abounding in vowels, and deriving most of its words from the Latin.

The journey from Nagy Várád to Transylvania is a most beautiful one. Along the rivulets and streams, poppies grow in the greatest abundance, whilst the mountains are covered by ancient oaks, now and then relieved by pine-trees, and amidst rocky hills and steep descents, we reach Transylvania.

On our way we are struck by the quaint and picturesque valley of Bánffy Hunyad, the inhabitants of which are known for their beautiful embroidery work. These embroideries, which are characteristic patterns of the country, and at the same time most artistic in design, have found their way all over the world, and indeed have become a great fashion amongst the aristocracy.

KOLOZSVÁR

We make our first stop at Kolozsvár, the capital of Transylvania. The town is situated in a most lovely valley on the banks of the River Szamos, and is one of the prettiest towns in Hungary. It is a city with a glorious past, in which Her Majesty's ancestors had such a large share, and the heroic deeds of its ruling princes in the days of its independence were not immortalised in vain by Jókai, Jósika, and other poets of Hungary.

The streets of Kolozsvár are fine and broad, and in the large and busy market square stands the cathedral built by King Sigismund in 1414. Kolozsvár

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boasts of having given birth to the great King Matthias Corvinus in 1433. The house where he was born is now used as an ethnographical museum.

The Matthias Corvinus Monument, designed by John Fadrusz, unveiled in 1902, is one of the most imposing works of modern art. There are many interesting relics relating to the War of Independence in the Historical Museum of this town. The Erdély Museum (Transylvanian Museum) will be found of special interest as illustrating the golden age of the country's story.

Kolozsvár is the centre of the Transylvanian aristocracy, and most of the magnates own sumptuous palaces there. The most magnificent of these are the Bánffy and Wesselényi palaces, but the Telekis, Bethlens, and other families used to have their town residences here.

The once magnificent palace of the Rhédeys was for centuries the centre of social life in the land, and it was at the same time the seat of culture. Count László Rhédey, the grandfather of the late Duke of Teck, a great patron of art and letters, built at his own expense, and presented to the town, the first theatre at Kolozsvár, which, as we shall see later, afterwards became the great national theatre of Kolozsvár. It was at this palace that Countess Claudia Rhédey, the mother of the late Duke of Teck, spent a great deal of her childhood, and it was also endeared to the late Duke by many memories. Of the once former splendid residence only a small portion is left. The larger part has been demolished to make room for the principal hotel in Kolozsvár.



MEMORIAL TABLET ERECTED IN THE FORMER RHÉDEY
PALACE AT KOLOZSVÁR (TO THE MEMORY OF
COUNT JÁNOS RHÉDEY, †1768)

RHÉDEY MEMORIES

In the remaining part of the Rhédey Palace certain relics of the family are sacredly guarded, and by the kind courtesy of the Baroness de Horváth we are able to give an illustration of some of the antique furniture used by the Countess Claudia Rhédey. In one of the rooms is to be seen a very interesting memorial tablet erected to the memory of Count Janos Rhédey, the great general of the Empress Maria Theresia, who died in 1768, an illustration of which is also reproduced, together with the actual text of the inscription.

IN MEMORIAM

EXCELLEN : ACILL : DNI : COM : IOAN :
 RHEDEI DE K : RHEDE EX ANTIQUI
 SIMA RHEDEOIR : FAMILIA : DE GENE
 RE ARA REGIS QUOND : HUNG : OR
 TUM DUCENTIS MILIT : PER AN : XXXV
 DEDITI VARIISQ : MUMIS AC DIGNIT :
 PERFUNC : S : DEMUM C : R : ET AP : MAT
 CAMERAR : GENERAL : CAMPI MARSAL
 LOCUMTENENTIS INSIG : ORD : MILITAR
 TERESIAN EQUIP : ET NOB : TUR
 MÆ PRÆTOR : LOCTENENSIS : PRI
 MAR : ÆDEFIC : HUIUS AEXUIS : ET
 O NATO IS NATI : A MDCCXIII
 DEN : A : MDCCLXVIII

Kolozsvár is the seat of many cultured societies and institutions.

In the direction of Deés, and passing Szamos Ujvár, amidst a picturesque group of mountains called the Bethlen range, is situated the village of Bethlen, the cradle seat of the illustrious House of Bethlen. The castle is surrounded by a most

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beautiful park, and contains an interesting family museum.

We now leave *Kolozsvár* and proceed into the heart of Transylvania. On our way to *Torda* you will be already enchanted with the many charming features of the scenery; but the honours of romantic and historical interest fall to *Torda* and *Nagy-Enyed*. In looking at the former little place, you could hardly believe that beneath it lies buried a Roman town, yet this is the case, if we are to credit the ruins, colossal statues, columns, and other relics which have been found here. The *débris* of the salt mines situated close by, and the salt lakes, in which no insects or plants can live, will vouch for the presence of Vulcan, who has carried out his work of destruction with such terrible effect. Close by is a huge mountain cleft, the Torda Glen, the finest of the kind in the country. It is hollowed by a mountain brook, and in places it is so narrow that the water can hardly pass through it. Legend tells that when St. Ladislaus was pursued by his enemies and had no way of escape, the mountains sprang asunder, and he and his army were able to pass. Torda is also famed for its salt mines, formerly worked by the Romans. The quaint bridge on the River Aranyos is one of the landmarks of the country.

The people of the village of *Torockó* preserve every characteristic of their Székely (Szekler) origin.



SCENE IN THE MAROS VALLEY, TRANSYLVANIA

PLAINS OF CRUSADERS

THE MAROS VALLEY

Following the course of the beautiful Maros river, between Torda and Nagy-Enyed, one is struck by an immense plain of cornfields. Remember, its name is Keresztesmező (Plains of the Crusaders), for here the Crusaders assembled on their way to the Holy Land. It was here also, long before, that Dacibal fought his last battle with Trajan, and the remains of its ancient fort and the Roman swords constantly found by the peasants when ploughing the fields will serve to remind one of the decisive battle fought between the Emperor Trajan and the last King of Dacia.

But what has immortalised these plains for all time is the memory of the great battle fought by János Hunyadi against the Turks, whom he totally defeated.

János Hunyadi solemnised his victory in a Christianlike manner, for close by stands a church which he built in commemoration of the battle. In 1848 these plains were again the scene of many struggles.

Following further the Maros river, we come to *Maros Ujvár*, which contains one of the largest salt mines in Europe. Thence we reach *Maros Vásárhely*, the Székely capital of Transylvania. It is the seat of the eminent Hungarian explorer, Count Samu Teleki, to whom we refer elsewhere; and here also is the famous Teleki Library. The castle is one of the finest in Transylvania.

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The country all round Maros Vásárhely is so beautiful that it defies description. It was on the height of the mountains where the mighty Attila erected his favourite residence, and close by stood the altar of the pagan god Yesten, from whom tradition claims that the King of the Huns received the sword with which he vanquished so many nations, and which he left as a legacy to the Magyars.

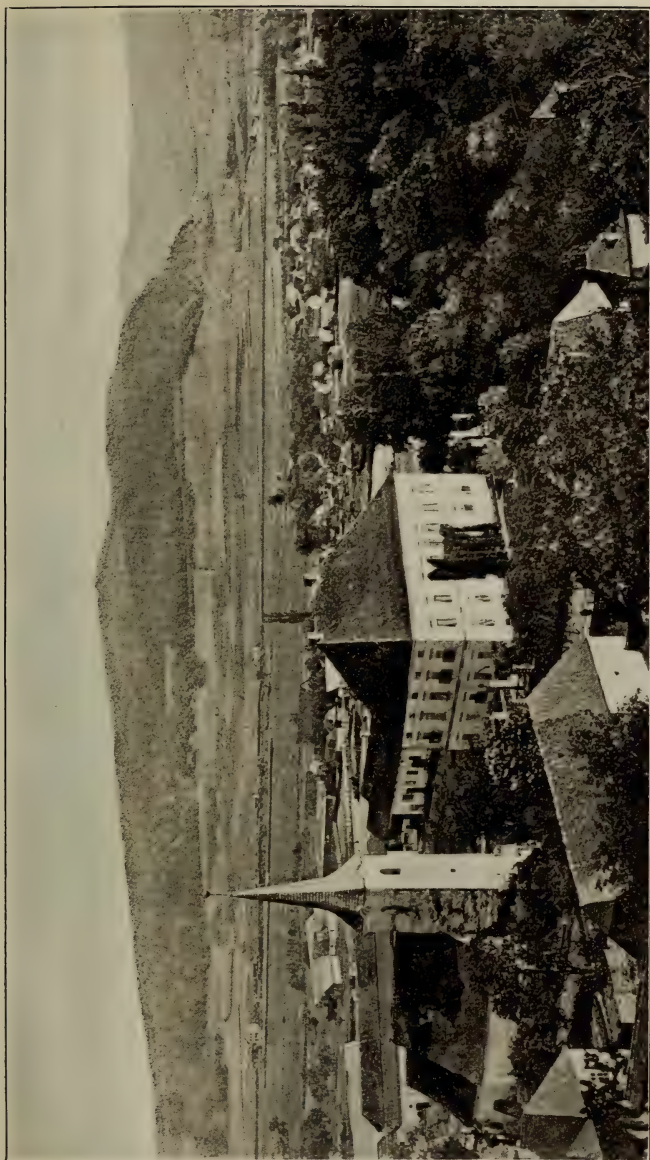
But what will interest us most in the Maros and Torda district is the village of Erdő Szent György, the birthplace of Her Majesty's grandmother, the beautiful Claudia, Countess Rhédey, and where she was buried.

THE BIRTHPLACE OF HER MAJESTY'S GRANDMOTHER

(Erdő Szent György)

It is a strange but remarkable coincidence that this place, which in English signifies "St. George of Transylvania," should in the future become so closely connected with St. George of England. Erdő Szent György is a very pretty village, situated on the slopes of a mountain once crowned by the ruins of a castle. Legendary lore credits great treasures to have been buried in the well here, for which treasures the peasants have sought in vain for centuries. There are now no signs or vestige of these ruins, though in the very excellent work written by Mr. John Paget on Hungary and Transylvania in 1839 * he refers to their existence. In those days,

* "Hungary and Transylvania." By John Paget. London: Murray, 1839.



ERDŐ SZENT GYÖRGY (MANOR HOUSE)
(THE BIRTHPLACE OF HER MAJESTY'S GRANDMOTHER)
Published by the courtesy of the Rev. József Nagy, Vicar of Erdő Szent György

ERDÉLY SZENT GYÖRGY

when the country was still inaccessible to the ordinary traveller, the journey from Hungary to Transylvania was by no means an easy task, and had to be performed by many stages across the steep mountain passes. Mr. Paget, who seems to have travelled with a caravan of his own, happened to run short of provisions in this village, and refers to the generosity of the hospitality he received at the Manor House of the Rhédeys.

Amongst the many family seats of the Rhédeys in Transylvania, Erdő Szent György used to be their favourite residence, where they could lead a simple country life. Though, since the death of the parents of the late Duke of Teck, and with the extinction of the male branch of the House of Rhédey, it has not been visited by a single member of the family, yet the memory of the Rhédeys is sacredly preserved by the descendants of those who have lived and seen their might and splendour, and who are proud to know that within the walls of its ancient manor house, the grandmother of Her Majesty first saw the light, and that her remains, together with those of a long line of illustrious ancestors, are buried in the parish church.

The church, which was built in the days of the Hunyadys, was endowed by the Rhédey family, and was restored within the last century at the expense of Baroness Wesselényi, *née* Countess Rhédey. Her Majesty the Queen has given proof how dearly she reveres the memory of her grandmother by having caused a memorial tablet to be placed in the church some years ago, and with Her Majesty's gracious

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permission we reproduce elsewhere a copy of the inscription.

On the great national event of Her Majesty's Coronation, and amidst the joyous and hearty wishes that will accompany their Majesties on that historic occasion, nowhere will the rejoicings be more sincere than in Erdő Szent György, the inhabitants of which are proud that the Queen of Great Britain, the mightiest of Empires, should be linked by family ties with the history of their village, and at the moment when the bells of St. Paul's and those throughout the vast British Empire will be merrily ringing in celebration of this solemn and memorable event, those of the village of Erdő Szent György will send their echo from the land of St. Stephen.

One of the most interesting sights in the Maros district is the cave of Almás, reached by paths in the ancient forest never cut by human hand. This wonderful creation of nature consists of fifteen huge cells. During the Tartar invasion the entire population took refuge here and managed to exist for weeks.

Numerous health resorts are scattered about the lofty mountains; indeed, there is hardly a village in the district without one or two mineral springs, efficacious for some kind of malady. Among these Borszék deserves mention on the Maros Vásárhely and Szászrégen railway; and *Előpatak*, which in olden days used to be the rendezvous of the Servian Waiwodes and Roumanian Boyars.

But the largest of all is Tusnad, in the vicinity of which is situated the Lake of St. Anna, the pride of Transylvania.



THE TORDA GLEN

SIGHTS IN TRANSYLVANIA

THE LAKE OF ST. ANNA

This wonderful lake is situated amongst huge mountains, the approach to which appears to be almost impassable.

The lake is about a mile in circumference and three thousand feet above the sea-level. Calm and still it lies, sheltered by the surrounding hills, whose pictures are reflected on its lovely green and unruffled surface. Close to the lake is another phenomenon of Nature in the shape of a phosphate cave. Its walls are covered with phosphate flowers; but beware! for one breath would deprive you of life.

NAGY-ENYED

Coming back we touch first Nagy-Enyed, to which a casual reference has been made. This town boasts the largest Protestant College in Transylvania, endowed by Prince Bethlen, as referred to elsewhere in these pages. It was burnt down in 1849 by the Roumanian insurgents, and a large subscription was made in England for the college during the reign of Queen Anne.

It is either from here or from Torda that the mining districts of Transylvania can be visited.

THE MINING DISTRICTS

The mines in the district surrounding Abrud-banya are about the oldest in Europe, having been worked by the Romans, who left relics behind in

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the shape of inscriptions, tools, etc. Not far off, across lovely pine woods, is the world-renowned Detonáta. As you suddenly perceive the mass of rocks you are struck dumb by this marvel of Nature. You might almost think that you see before you a huge Gothic structure with golden pillars; but no, this is no work of man, it is the work of Nature, and the glittering gold is only a proof that there is abundance of the precious metal hidden in the recesses of the rock.

GYULA FEHÉRVÁR

Passing several picturesque Wallachian hamlets, we reach Gyula Fehérvár, a pretty mining town, once the capital of Transylvania. The church here is a fine specimen of Gothic architecture, where lie buried several ruling princes of Transylvania. If its sacred walls had merely contained the tombs of such heroes as János Hunyadi and his son Ladislaus, it would be sufficient to render it famous, but it also holds the graves of King Sigismund and of Queen Isabella of Hungary. Over the grave of János Hunyadi there is a monument representing the great Hungarian hero holding his sword, the weight of which was felt by many a Mussulman. The original sword was stolen, and the thief thought he would make a friend of the Turkish commander of Győr, once a great foe of Hunyadi, by taking it to him as a present; but the commander, instead of thanking him for the gift, had the thief's arm cut off for having dared to lay hands on such a noble



LEÁNYKŐ, TRANSYLVANIA

THE SWORD OF HUNYADI

relic, and cast the weapon into the river in order that no unworthy hand might touch it.

Not far from Gyula Fehérvár are the plains of Kenyér Mezö. It was on this ground that the great hero Kinizsi defeated the Turks and raised a huge column in commemoration of his victory. Proceeding, we take leave for the moment of Gyula Fehérvár and take the direction of Nagy Szeben.

NAGY SZE BEN

Nagy Szeben is another important city, situated on a pretty plateau surrounded by high mountains. It is inhabited by the original Saxon settlers, and the town has quite a German character. Its ancient fortifications and mediæval buildings are most picturesque, but more interesting than all is its Protestant church, which was built before the time of the Reformation. Close by is Vizakna, a famous health resort, and Fogaras, the castle of which once served as a residence for Prince Apaffi. Fogaras is now famed for its Government stud.

Next follows the beautiful town of Segesvár, which proudly looks down from its round high hill. Its turreted and palatial residence, its citadel and grand churches, all lend to it a most picturesque and quaint appearance. It was near Segesvár that in 1848 the great national poet Alexander Petőfi fell fighting whilst inspiring his fellow-countrymen to defend the sacred cause of their fatherland. Although for many years the Hungarian nation tried to trace his remains, they thus far have never been found.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

BRASSÓ

But by far the prettiest and the best situated city in Transylvania is Brassó, picturesquely perched on the slopes of the Transylvanian Alps, one of the most important towns of the district. Many of its buildings date from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The whole town lies at a dizzy depth beneath our feet, crowned by the gigantic wood-clad Czenk mountain.

We return once more to Gyula Fehérvár, and proceeding in the direction of Vajda Hunyad by way of Szászváros, we come to the ruins of the historic castle of Déva, known since the Roman days, and from here we reach the most celebrated castle in Transylvania, that of Vajda Hunyad, one of the finest specimens of mediæval architecture, once the stronghold of the hero János Hunyadi, father of King Matthias. The handsome building of the Agricultural Museum at Budapest was copied from this beautiful edifice, with which so many legends and heroic deeds are associated.

We are now within easy reach of the historic mountain pass to which the Emperor Trajan gave the name of Iron Gates, and here we bid good-bye to the pearl of the Hungarian Crown, and, taking the train by the circuitous railway route through the picturesque country of Krassó Szörény, we reach the Hungarian side of the more famous Iron Gates near Orsova.



THE FORTRESS OF VAJDA HUNYAD, TRANSYLVANIA

CHAPTER XXIII

THE DANUBE IRON GATES

The Danube Iron Gates have from time immemorial barred the way to any incoming vessels, by the enormous masses of rocks which nature has sunk into her bed, and protected Hungary, whose holy freedom was so dearly bought by the blood of its heroic sons. Everything changes with time, and centuries seem to have extinguished the passion for war, which has been one of their birthrights. But whilst the Magyars are always on the alert and ready to draw their swords in defence of their country, animated by a spirit of progress and in the interest of its commercial relations with the outside world, it was resolved to remove, at the expense of many millions of pounds, the huge rocks which barred the way of the mercantile steamers to the Black Sea. It was a marvellous engineering work and the masterpiece of modern times.

In 1896 the Danube Canal was solemnly opened to the world's commerce by the Emperor-King Francis Joseph, and was one of the most imposing functions ever performed in that part of Hungary, and will always be remembered by those who, like the writer of these lines, had the privilege of being the invited guest of the Hungarian nation on this memorable occasion.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

ADAKALEH (A TURKISH COLONY)

The picturesque little Turkish colony called *Adakaleh*, on the Danube island at Orsova, serves to remind one of the former might of the Ottoman Empire, whose national flag was hoisted here for centuries; and the history of this little Turkish colony is a romantic one. Adakaleh was one of the posts held by the Turks for centuries when their power was extended nearly to the gates of Vienna, and many Sultans visited it on their way to Hungary. With the expulsion of the Turks from that country, and by the subsequent treaties concluded between the German and Ottoman Empires, whereby the latter was to give up all the positions it held in Hungary, it never occurred to either party to worry themselves about the little island of Adakaleh, which then remained under the Turkish flag; and even in the Berlin Treaty, when the Turks were ousted from Servia and Roumania (which joins the Hungarian frontier near Orsova), Adakaleh was again forgotten to be included in the treaty, and remained under the dominion of the Turks until two years ago, when at the time of the Bosnian crisis it was finally annexed to the Hungarian Crown.

HERCULES FÜRDŐ

The famous Hungarian watering-place, Hercules Fördő, situated in the vicinity of Orsova, in the lovely narrow valley along the mountain stream of Cserna,



THE DEFILES OF KAZÁN, IRON GATES, HUNGARY

THE LOWER DANUBE

is certain to entice the traveller ; but the central point of attraction, and a sight which will always be remembered, is a short trip on the Danube between Orsova and Báziás, across the defiles of Kazan.

THE DEFILES OF KAZÁN

Coming from Báziás in the opposite direction, the Danube all along winds her way, recklessly and carelessly, amidst rugged hills and mountains, from Hungarian soil into Servian territory and the confines of Roumania. She dashes along in an eccentric fashion, constantly changing her course and sovereignty. Now she likes to water the lands of Servia or to have a peep at Roumania, but all at once seems to regret quitting the Hungarian soil and rushes back into its cherished bosom with joyful whispers. The gigantic mountains cheerfully welcome her temporary return and tenderly embrace her once more before she quits this romantic region, only to disappear ere long for ever in the deep waters of the Black Sea. At the Kazán Pass the scene becomes bewitchingly grand and unrivalled in beauty and splendour. Here the mighty Danube loses its way among the mountain cliffs, and flows down gently in a modest bed of only 165 metres. Whilst gazing upon the dizzy heights of the stream and waterfalls which are running down from the precipitous rock wall right into her bosom, she forces her way through, and leaves her narrow confines. It is a grand sight, and one which has no rival or, indeed, any equal in Europe.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

Nor is this wonderful region without historic interest, for on the rocky walls which encircle the Danube there are inscriptions immortalising the Dacian campaign of the Emperor Trajan, 103 A.D., and the construction of the Via Traina. The road, which was built by the once mighty Romans, originally ran on the Servian side of the Danube, but right opposite, on the Hungarian side of the great river, the ever-immortal Hungarian patriot, the father and creator of modern Hungary, Count Szechényi, had a beautiful road hewn out of the rock, which is a wonderful piece of engineering and of imposing beauty.

At Orsova the Danube once more assumes her former might and majesty, and generously shares her gifts of beauty amongst the lands of Hungary, Servia, and Roumania, who smilingly meet each other here.



THE OPENING OF THE IRON GATES BY HIS IMPERIAL AND ROYAL MAJESTY THE EMPEROR-KING (1896)

CHAPTER XXIV

THE ALFÖLD (LOWLANDS)

From Orsova we are taken back swiftly to Budapest by way of Temesvár, across those vast and fertile plains situated between the Danube and the Tisza known as the Alföld, or Lowlands.

Here we are in a new world. For hundreds and hundreds of miles stretch the endless fields of golden corn, waving and rocking like the bosom of the ocean over which the Fata Morgana or mirage of the plains is playing with her frolic fancy, throwing upward her flaming fireworks. As far as eye can see, not a village nor hamlet rises on the horizon; only here and there a solitary farmhouse and *csárda* (wayside inn), or the figure of a *csikós* (or cowboy) riding furiously, disturb the monotony of the scene. And so we proceed further amidst forest-like orchards and vineyards, or come to sheets of green meadows, upon which enormous herds of cattle and sheep are grazing, and wild young colts are being pursued by the *csikós*, who, with one lash of their whip in the air, make them obey them.

The Alföld villages are very picturesque in appearance, and sometimes vast in extent, and present a great novelty to the stranger. In the summer or during the harvest everybody is on the move. Old and young all participate in the work in the field. It is one of the finest scenes to see the huge white

THE HOUSE OF TECK

oxen bringing home cartloads of corn, melons, maize, tobacco, and numerous other products of the soil, and the large herds of sheep and cattle making their way homewards towards sunset, and the melodious tones of the young maidens ring sweetly on in the plain whilst at their work.

There are numerous extensive farms called *puszta* and *tanya* all over the plains, though in some portions they are less wild in appearance ; in fact, most of them contain as many cottages as a village.

Those estates or farms situated, say, within half an hour of a village are never called *puszta* ; they are named *tanya*. These *tanyas* are, indeed, very similar to a village, the houses of the owner and labourers being surrounded by pretty flower and vegetable gardens, rows of acacia-trees, etc. Added to this, the cattle and live stock moving about give everything a most picturesque appearance. Some *tanyas* are so large that their inhabitants vary in number from 1500 to 2000.

Many are the characteristic features of this vast place which strike the eye. The picturesque costumes worn by the peasantry change as we pass from place to place, and as we reach the large peasant town of Kecskemét, and the beautiful city on the Tisza Szeged, they become most varied and attractive in the extreme.

Proceeding still further in the vicinity of some villages, the scene becomes more animated and interesting. You see a continuous stream of peasants. One woman carries food to her husband in the fields,



SCENE NEAR HERKULES BATH, NEAR IRON GATES, HUNGARY

CHARACTERISTIC SCENES

a quaint water-jug being strapped to her back. Another poises a basket of grapes, gathered in the vineyard, gracefully upon her head. Here come the big-horned oxen, panting under their loads of pumpkins, melons, and other field produce. Scattered about the roads you see melons, pumpkins, or cucumbers, which have evidently fallen from the heavily-stocked carts. Why should the people stoop to pick them up when they are so plentiful as to be got for nothing anywhere, or if not, to be purchased for a farthing apiece ?

As you proceed further, every moment reveals something fresh to the eye. There you see little boys guarding the flocks of poultry, who seem to give you welcome with their clattering voices ; here, little naked gipsies run towards you, turning somersaults and begging for hellers. The little fellows have just spied you out from their mud huts, and as you pass by the encampment itself, a chorus of voices is to be heard. One gipsy offers you trinkets for sale, evidently stolen goods. Another says, " Give me your cigar, your highness ! " and after you have yielded to his request, says simply, " Thank you, Mr." Yet another is perfectly satisfied if he can steal your pocket-handkerchief, whilst a fourth rushes into his hut to seek his fiddle, in order to play you a characteristic air ! Everybody is on the alert. Even the dogs and cats are excited, howling and barking and mewling ! Glad to escape from these vagabonds, you go on your way. Your mind is soon distracted. There are to be seen the windmills, the quaint mills worked by horses, and the pretty

THE HOUSE OF TECK

thatched cottages of the adjoining villages, with their roofs guarded by the storks.

And so, as we proceed to enter a village, we are enabled to note the busy life of the peasants coming home from the fields—men, women, and children carrying on their shoulders their hoes and sickles and bundles of hay. You see the little ones running delightedly to meet their parents, and the cows, calves, and pigs making their way home, too, amidst the barking of the dogs. Joyfully they look at and rub up against their masters. It is a pleasing sight. Even the poultry seem to watch the peasants' return with delight, and the storks, to be seen on every cottage roof, chatter apparently with pleasure.

The Alföld is so beautiful and so characteristic that to do it justice it should be described in the words of Hungary's greatest poet, Alexander Petöfi:—

“What are to me the wild Carpathian mountains with their pine trees? I may admire them, but not love them. Nor does my imagination wander into their valleys. Down in the interior of the vast and ocean-like plains, there I am at home, and that is my world. If I look at the endless plains, my thoughts fly far away and near to the clouds. I see between the Danube and the Tisza the smiling picture of the plains. Under the Fata Morgana sky the herds of the Kuns are grazing near the wells. I hear the tramp of the furious-riding *csikós* (cowboy) and the clacking of their whips. Near the Pusztá plains, in the lap of the breeze the corn ears are rocking, and with their bright emerald tint they



A LOWLAND PEASANT FARMER

PETŐFI ON THE ALFÖLD

joyfully crown the land. Here come at twilight the wild ducks who are driven away from their rest among the reeds by the swaying of the wind. Beyond the farms, in the depths of the *puszta*, stands a lonely *csárda* (inn). It is visited by the thirsty *betyárs* (tramps), who go to the fair at Kecskemét. Near to the groves of the birches you see the melons glittering in the sands. Here, close by, nestles the bird undisturbed by the children ; here is cultivated the maidenhair plant and the blue cornflower, and the lizards come to take shelter from the broiling sun under their roots.

“Far away, where the sky touches the earth in mist, the blue orchards are to be seen. Behind them the spires of the churches of the distant towns stand out in dim fog-like streaks. You are beautiful, Alföld ! At least you are beautiful to me. Here I was born and cradled, and here I would have my eyelids closed, and my tomb raised.”

But in the Alföld one is no less reminded of the brave sons of Hungary who for a thousand years were led to so many victories by Her Majesty's ancestors, and one recalls the words of the immortal poet Vörösmarty,

This is the soil whereon so oft
Árpád's red blood has rained like tears ;
This is the soil whose holy name
Has lasted for a thousand years.

The hero Árpád's noble troops
Struggled for Freedom's lofty name,
Here Hunyady's arms were blest
When Slavery broke her iron chain.

THE HOUSE OF TECK

For Freedom's cause the country's flag.
Waved crimson with the warriors' blood ;
Too proud to bear the name of slaves,
They struggling sank into the flood.



THE CROWNLANDS OF THE KINGDOM OF ST-STEPHANS CROATIA, SLAVONIA AND THE MILITARY DISTRICT.

Drawn by
Joseph Homolka H.R.C.
Revised by
Dr. John Jankó
S.M.G.S.

Explanatory marks:

- CAPITAL
- Royal Free City
- Town
- Market-town
- Village
- Railway
- Highroad



Chief Division.		The Counties of Hungary.	
I. Hungary		Trans-Danubian Counties(Comitatus)	
A. Trans-Danubia		1 Moson	18 Zólyom
B. Cis-Danubia		2 Sopron	17 Estergom
C. Slavonia		3 Győr	18 Bors
D. Trans-Tisza		4 Komárom	19 Nyitra
E. Transylvania		5 Fejér	20 Pozsony
		6 Veszprém	21 Trencsén
		7 Zala	22 Turóc
		8 Somogy	23 Árva
		9 Tolna	24 Liptó
		10 Baranya	
		Cis-Tisza Counties	
		12 Bács-Bodrog	36 Szepes
		13 Pest-P. K. Kun	36 Gömör
		14 Nógrád	37 Heves
		15 Hont	38 Borsod
		Cis-Danubian Counties	
		31 Sáros	39 Hunyad
		32 Zemplén	40 Szabolcs
		33 Ung	41 Hódmező
		34 Bereg	42 Csik
		Trans-Tisza Count.	
		35 Máramaros	43 Kolozs
		36 Ugocsa	44 Maros-Torda
		37 Szatmár	45 Beszterce-Naszód
		38 Szabolcs	46 Sziolnok-Doboka
			47 Szilággy

The Counties of		The late Croatic-Slavon military Frontier-District
Croatia	Slavonia	
I. Fiume	VI. Pozsega	IX. Pétervárad
II. Zágráb	VII. Verőce	
III. Varasd	VIII. Szerém	X. Bács
IV. Kőrös		
V. Belovár		XI. Lika-Otocsány
		Ogulin-Szlun

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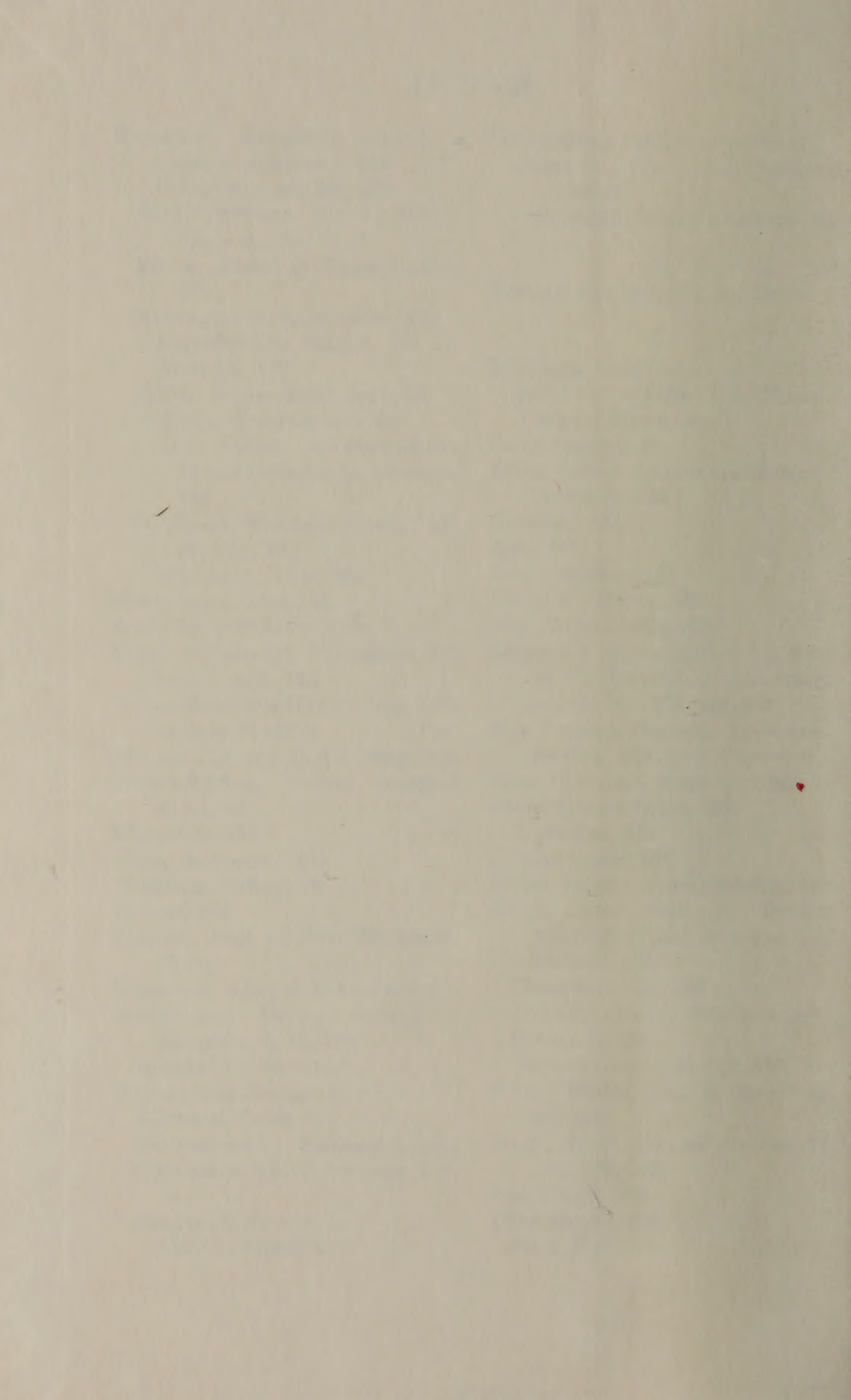
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